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KERRANG!

2017

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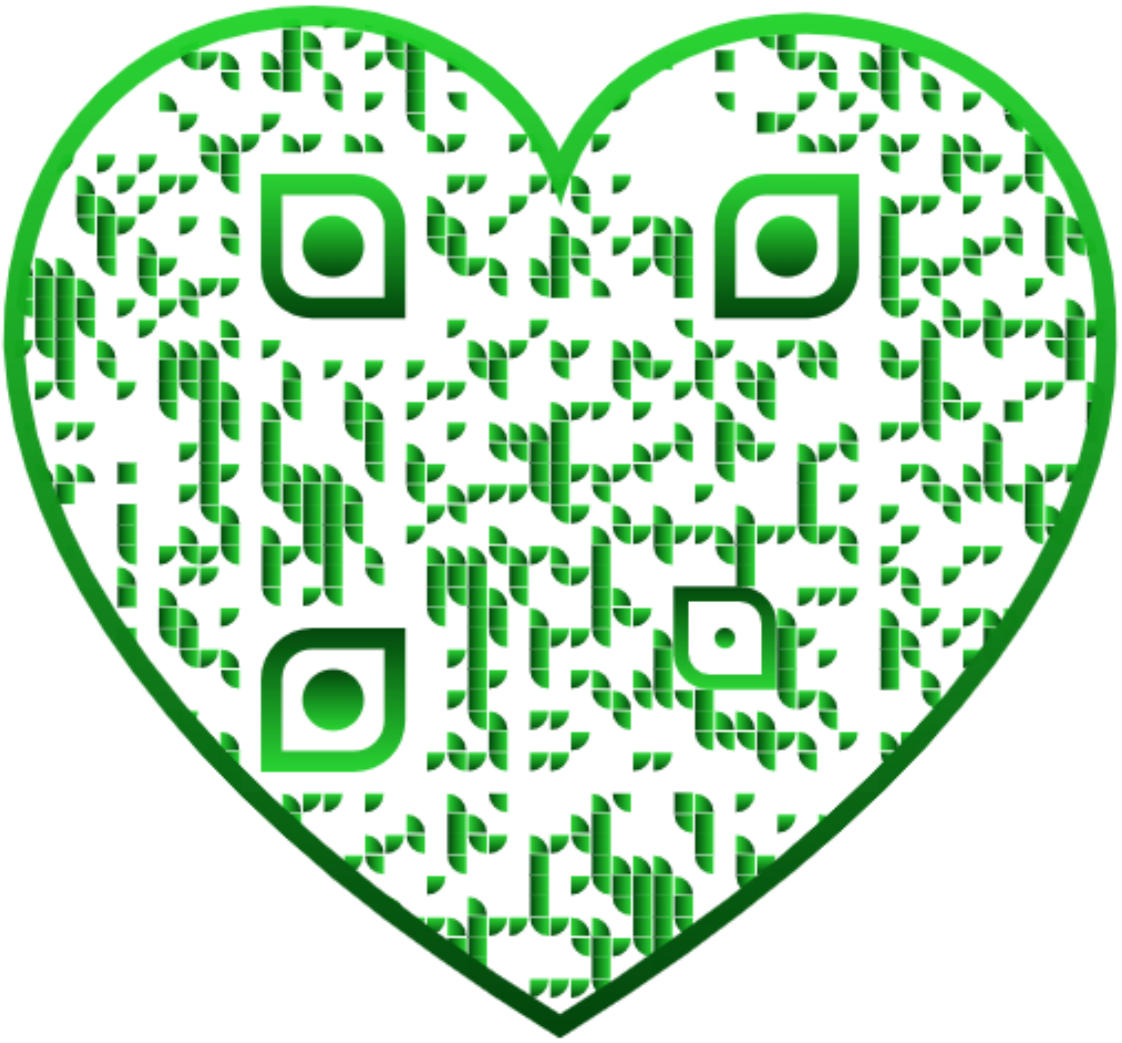

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CONTENTS

ISSUE 1701 DEC 16, 2017

HANDS UP, who ever thought we'd be ending 2017 by talking about Code Orange's GRAMMY nomination?

That late-November headline is both one of the biggest causes for celebration we've seen these past 12 months, and also, in a nutshell, the embodiment of just how head-spinningly crazy this year has been. Just ask the Pittsburgh quintet how it's been for them. Alternatively, have a word with the winners of this year's Kerrang! Album Of The Year, which we reveal on p48, and ask them whether they saw things panning out quite the way they did. Hey, while we're at it, ask the same of Kerrang! coverstar Jeremy Corbyn. It's been *that* kind of year.

There have been fantastic highs, from stunning records to gigs that will live forever in the memory. There have been heartbreaking lows, and all-too-frequent losses. But if making this week's issue has reminded us of anything, it's of the strength, power, diversity and excitement of our rock scene. And that is something worth cherishing.

SAM

NEWS The Houses of Parliament (of all places) provides the perfect backdrop as a send-off to the fallen **Lil Peep (p4)**. After that, **Slam Dunk 2017** gets *even more* awesome **(p6)**, and a new mental health helpline – specifically tailored to the music industry – is launched **(p8)**.

FEATURES **ON THE COVER:** Er, can someone please tell us where the heck the year went? We look back at 2017's highs, lows and everything in-between – featuring **Avenged Sevenfold** and **PVRIS (p16)** right through to **Marilyn Manson** and **Asking Alexandria (p39)**. After that, we count down the 50 best records that arrived over the past 12 months **(p40)**, and chat to our much-deserved Number 1 band **(p48)**. And no, we're not going to tell you who wins on this page. Soz.

POSTERS It's the first part of our **Shots Of 2017** special! Featuring **Enter Shikari**, **Frank Iero**, **Guns N' Roses** and more **(p30)**. And be sure to pick up next week's issue for part two…

LIVES There's a bunch of early Christmas treats in the form of massive shows from **PVRIS (p50)**, **Good Charlotte (p52)** and **Stone Sour (p53)**. It truly is the most wonderful time of the year.

GIGS **Dinosaur Jr.** gear up for some special UK gigs – with very minimal fuss. It's why we love 'em so, tbf **(p56)**. Elsewhere, K! pop to Southend for a tour of **Chinnerys (p58)**.

SHOTS OF 2017 p30

Don't forget your walls this Christmas – treat them to these lovely rockstars' faces

GOOD CHARLOTTE p52

Joel Madden skilfully manoeuvred the Contents slug mid-gig

CONTENTS PHOTO: PAUL HARRIES

HOUSE OF MEMORIES

BARELY A month after the tragic passing of Lil Peep – who died from an apparent overdose aged 21 – his short, but colourful life was celebrated across the globe last week. First, in his hometown of Long Beach, New York, friends and family gathered at a small service – broadcast online – to share memories and pay tribute to the man they knew best as Gustav Åhr. While over here in the UK, where we knew him best as being the pioneer of emo-rap, Peep's face was projected upon the Houses Of Parliament; a temporary memorial to a man who will live forever in fans' minds.

PHOTO: PA IMAGES

BIG PICTURE

BIG STORY

'DAY OF

HAVING ALREADY PROMISED US JIMMY EAT WORLD AND TAKING BACK SUNDAY, SLAM DUNK 2018 GETS BIGGER WITH PVRIS, ETID, CREEPER AND MORE. OH, AND A VERY SPECIAL THURSDAY REUNION SHOW, TOO!

FANS OF post-hardcore godfathers Thursday have been champing at the bit to see the band back in the UK after announcing their reunion in 2016, subsequently playing a string of U.S. festivals and headline dates. And next spring, they will finally get their chance, when the emo heroes exclusively hit Slam Dunk, their first UK shows since 2011!

Joining a rapidly-expanding line-up that now includes **Good Charlotte**, **PVRIS**, **Frank Carter & The Rattlesnakes**, **Creeper**, **Every Time I Die**, **Knuckle Puck**, **Real Friends** and **Crown The Empire**, it's sure to be an explosive return to our shores. We caught up with vocalist Geoff Rickly to find out how things fell into place to make this happen…

HOW DO YOU FEEL TO FINALLY BE RETURNING TO THE UK, GEOFF?

GEOFF RICKLY (*VOCALS*): "Literally from the moment we started having conversations about reuniting, I started talking about coming back to the UK. It's such a special place to me. As a kid, my parents would get me a lot of British music magazines, and I remember thinking, '*Some day* I'm going to save up to go to Reading Festival' – and my first time going there was *playing* it, which was beyond a dream come true. But for various reasons, since we reunited coming back over kept not working out, and I kept on bugging people about it, and to be honest, when Slam Dunk was first proposed to us I wasn't sure if I wanted to do it. We had done the first Slam Dunk in Leeds in 2006 and that wasn't a great show for us, and I thought it wouldn't be right for where we're at now. But then they told us what the line-up was and I realised it was the kind of show I *really* wanted to be a part of!"

PVRIS

Every Time I Fucking Die

SO YOU DIDN'T EXACTLY HAVE THE BEST EXPERIENCE AT THAT FIRST SLAM DUNK?

"No, we really didn't go down well. Or at least, that's how I felt at the time, anyway. Before our set a bunch of bands I had never heard of played, and I remember thinking, 'Well, if they're getting this great response then we're gonna do *awesome*!' And that turned out to be me not understanding that there was a whole new scene going on and we weren't a part of it. To be honest, some people told us we were great after the show, but when I was up there I felt like we were not connecting, and we didn't totally belong there. But, I think a lot of people look back on us now as being an important band, and rather than trying to compete with younger bands, to kind of be considered a 'grandfather band' is actually really nice."

HAVE YOU BEEN HEARING A LOT FROM UK FANS WANTING YOU TO GET BACK OVER HERE?

"Oh my God, yes! It's been long enough now that I think some of them are like, 'Well, fuck you guys if you're not going to come over!' (*Laughs*) But we'll do our best to make it worthwhile for everyone. I'd say

Geoff Rickly throws a tantrum – before seeing this year's Slam Dunk line-up

THE DUNK

"THE REUNION HAS BEEN AMAZING – BUT I DON'T WANT IT TO BE A FOREVER THING..."
GEOFF RICKLY

to keep an eye on our social media around Slam Dunk, because if we can go hang out at a record store and sign records, or I can go and play an acoustic show, that's something we want to do. We're going to try to take advantage as much as possible for the people who have waited for us for so long."

THE LAST TIME YOU ACTUALLY PLAYED HERE WAS ON THE FULL COLLAPSE 10TH ANNIVERSARY TOUR IN 2011. THE BAND SPLIT UP NOT THAT LONG AFTER THAT – DID YOU KNOW THOSE WOULD BE YOUR LAST UK SHOWS AT THE TIME?

"No, I had no idea. We're all really proud of our last record, No Devolución [2011], and we'd been talking about repositioning the band and the kinds of bands we wanted to go on tour with. Then something happened interpersonally that meant we had to stop, and I didn't see it coming at all. But, those shows we played were with Circa Survive, and they were a great time. We played a lot of the songs off No Devolución and then encored with Full Collapse, and I was really happy to be doing that."

WHEN YOU REUNITED YOU MADE IT VERY CLEAR THAT THERE WOULD BE NO NEW MUSIC, YOU WERE ONLY PLAYING SHOWS. IS THAT STILL THE CASE, OR MIGHT WE HEAR SOMETHING NEW AT SLAM DUNK?

"Right now, no. The reunion has been amazing, all the relationships that took a hit have been repaired, and guys in the band have started being the best man at the weddings of others, and sons are being born and named after other band members. That said, I want to have a time limit on this reunion, for it to be something special and not be a forever thing. I've always felt that if you're opening a show and given an hour to play then take only 45 minutes, because it's better to leave people wanting more than it is to wear out your welcome, and that's how I feel about the reunion. When we'll be over, it will also be the 20th anniversary of the band, which is a wild thing. So if I were writing this as a book, I'd say this anniversary is the perfect time for us to put a bow on it, and to say, 'This is what we want to be remembered for.'"

*For all the latest **Slam Dunk** news, head to **Kerrang.com**!*

INTERVIEW: DAN SLESSOR **PHOTO:** GETTY

DREAM STATE

FOR FANS OF: MARMOZETS, ALEXISONFIRE, PARAMORE

WORDS: JAMES HINGLE **PHOTO:** GARETH BULL

WHO'S THIS FIVE-PIECE PEERING OUT OF SOME AUBURN BUSHES?

Oh, it's only one of South Wales' hottest prospects, Dream State, who've already garnered a huge 3.5 million views on YouTube for single White Lies. The beautifully aggressive nature of the song has resonated with many, earning the band a following that stretches across the globe already. "It's really humbling that fans have championed us around the world – none of us were expecting [White Lies] to do so well," gleams vocalist CJ Gilpin. "The song is a personal one for me. It's something that I want people to relate to."

OH... HOW COMES?

While the chorus may chime with upbeat pop sensibilities, catching your ear instantly, the heavy mood of White Lies is a much more complex and dark being. It acted as a form of therapy for CJ, after her experiences dealing with mental health issues and addiction within herself and loved ones. "It was me spilling my guts to the world, and showing them a part of me," she admits. "That song was a way of me releasing my feelings, as music has been a really good support for me – and it's a safer habit to have." And the lyrics, "*Cause I think I've lost half my mind fighting my addiction*," exposes a very real and honest insight into the previous struggles of this virtuous singer.

> **"I WANT OUR MUSIC TO HELP PEOPLE..."**

BUT THERE'S POSITIVITY IN THIS DARKNESS, TOO, RIGHT?

Of course. Music is a release, an art form, and for many a way to escape or feel free. And this is music to reflect that feeling; even in times of personal strife and uncertainty, there's always the sounds of a band to make you feel better. "Music has saved me in so many ways," CJ continues. "I want people to listen to our music and I want that to help them. I just want to give back through music the way it helped me." And Dream State's upcoming EP does just that. "It's about holding onto that little bit of light and coming out stronger for it."

SO, WHEN CAN WE HEAR THIS NEW EP?

Well, they've just signed with UNFD, and re-released their viral hit White Lies, with two beautifully-crafted renditions – one piano and one acoustic version. "We've been holding back until all the announcements, but we'll be hitting people with a lot of new music in early 2018, so hopefully everyone can stay patient with us," reveals CJ. But they've got nothing to worry about: with the strength of White Lies, Dream State will rule your world over the coming months.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

WHAT: Dark-pop meets post-hardcore from the south of Wales.
HEAR: Viral hit White Lies. The thrilling video is on YouTube now.
MORE INFO: Facebook.com/dreamstateukofficial
CHECK OUT: For a throwback, listen to the band's 2015 EP Consequences.

(L – R:) Jamie Lee (drums), Danny Rayer (bass), CJ Gilpin (vocals), Aled Evans (guitar), Rhys Wilcox (guitar)

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KERRANG! ROCK CHART

CREEPER HAVE GOT US IN THE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT WITH A COVER OF A CLASSIC. BUT **GLASSJAW** NAB THE TOP SPOT!

	WEEK'S CHART	HIGHEST POSITION	ARTIST	TITLE
1	2	1	GLASSJAW	SHIRA
2	3	1	AC/DC	LET THERE BE ROCK
3	3	3	PARAMORE	FAKE HAPPY
4	3	2	GREEN DAY	BACK IN THE USA
5	2	5	STONE TEMPLE PILOTS	MEADOW
6	4	2	ENTER SHIKARI	THE SIGHTS
7	1	7	MOOSE BLOOD	TALK IN YOUR SLEEP
8	2	8	I PREVAIL	ALREADY DEAD
9	3	6	THE XCERTS	HOLD ON TO YOUR HEART
10	1	10	CREEPER	FAIRYTALE OF NEW YORK
11	5	11	ROLO TOMASSI	RITUALS
12	3	7	MACHINE HEAD	BEYOND THE PALE
13	8	1	MARMOZETS	HABITS
14	3	7	FRANK CARTER & THE RATTLESNAKES	SPRAY PAINT LOVE
15	4	7	NECK DEEP	PARACHUTE
16	5	5	BLACK VEIL BRIDES	WHEN THEY CALL MY NAME
17	11	1	LINKIN PARK	ONE MORE LIGHT
18	1	18	DREAM STATE	WHITE LIES
19	1	19	OF MICE & MEN	DEFY
20	8	1	CODE ORANGE	THE MUD

STAFF PICK!

MEADOW
STONE TEMPLE PILOTS

JAMES HICKIE, WRITER

"Given what they've been through, STP's return took many by surprise. That shock soon turned to delight at how good this tune is, and how in the swaggering mould of the late Scott Weiland new vocalist Jeff Gutt proved. Can't wait for the new album."

DID YOU KNOW?

TALK IN YOUR SLEEP
MOOSE BLOOD

This is the first song from Moose Blood's new album, I Don't Think I Can Do This Anymore. The record itself has been described as their most emotionally complex, and reflects how much their lives have changed since being in the band. Expect a lot of emo vibes, then…

INSIDE THE SONG…

AARON PAULEY, OF MICE & MEN

WHAT'S DEFY ALL ABOUT, THEN, AARON?

"Defy is all about defying the feeling of hopelessness and the comforting numbness it can bring to your life when hopelessness goes unchecked. I've always understood that there exists a comfort in feeling hopeless, because it gives you an excuse to not try. While that comfort takes the pain of failure away, it creates a scenario in which it's just as easy to feel like you're fading into oblivion."

DID YOU KNOW?

FAKE HAPPY
PARAMORE

The video to Paramore's latest single was filmed in New York City. It's solely focused on Hayley Williams walking around in a sequined catsuit. The directing duties for this actually fell to drummer Zac Farro, proving he's a dab-hand with a camera, too.

STAFF PICK!

FAIRYTALE OF NEW YORK
CREEPER

STEVE BEEBEE, WRITER

"While this perennial festive favourite is already a lot darker than most realise, Creeper have turned it into a proper nativity in black – and you'll love them for it. Time to get yourself ready for Creepmas."

STAFF PICK!

PARACHUTE
NECK DEEP

EMILY CARTER, PRODUCTION EDITOR

"A heartfelt banger from the pop-punk band of 2017. The Peace And The Panic has officially won my heart."

STAFF PICK!

SHIRA
GLASSJAW

DAVID McLAUGHLIN, WRITER

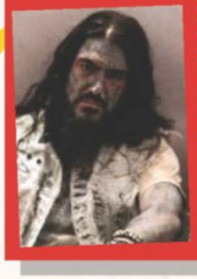
"Everything about the Long Island legends' return has been a total and utter marvel. This single from the very-long-awaited new album, Material Control, has that classic Glassjaw mix of piercing squalls of guitar, rumbling bass growls and meaty beats. Throw in Daryl Palumbo barking, gliding and swooping all over, adding a combination of manic urgency and oddly calming melody, and you have an absolute bullseye. As ever, as always, it shouldn't work, but that old magic is once again present and correct. It's like they picked up exactly where they left off on Worship And Tribute in 2002 and brought it into 2017."

INSIDE THE SONG…

ROBB FLYNN, MACHINE HEAD

WHY DID BEYOND THE PALE BECOME THE FIRST SONG FROM YOUR NEW ALBUM, CATHARSIS, ROBB?

"We dropped Beyond The Pale first from our new album Catharsis because it just felt like a straight-up banger! It's got a huge, arena-sized chorus, a stomping mid-tempo groove, and one of my favourite lines on the record, a nod to our loyal fanbase, the Head Cases: *'I found my heroes, the freaks and zeros.'*"



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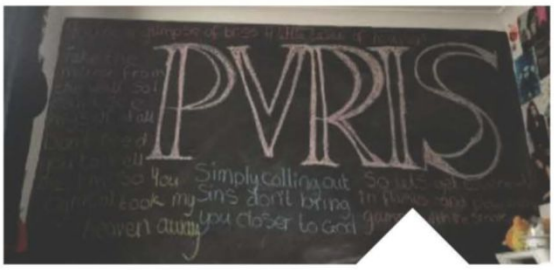

MY ~~HOUSE~~ ROOM

*"I miss PVRIS so I decided to get creative with my wall," explains **@Stitch_Knight13**. This is very cool, dude! We've just had our office decorated, funnily enough, so if you're in the area, feel free to pop in and KEEP YOUR PAWS AWAY FROM OUR BEAUTIFUL, GOOD-ENOUGH-TO-EAT-OFF-OF, PRISTINE WHITE WALLS. Ahem.*

KELLIN GRIN

*Here's **Nikita** with Sleeping With Sirens chap Kellin Quinn, correctly predicting how many times we've fallen over after having too much mulled wine already this Christmas. So an awesome picture, and an insight into our drinking habits, then. Lovely stuff.*

FOR WHOM THE (JINGLE) BELL TOLLS

*"A broken leg means no PE, but more time in the ICT suites…" explains **@foobiter**. Ah, so sorry to hear about your leg. But we're chuffed to bits to see 'Tallica as snowmen. If you're this talented when it comes to creating a Crimbo card, we bet you're a Master Of Presents, too. (Urgh, sorry.)*

CAN YOU FEEL MY ART?

WINNER!

*"My GCSE drawing of Oli Sykes – hope you like it!" **@lauren_drums1**. Ace, Lauren. This is worthy of an A* and a prize. While we can't guarantee the former, we can give you the latter. You've won a limited-edition Epiphone Lee Malia Explorer Custom Artisan Outfit guitar – congrats! Drop us an email at Feedback@kerrang.com to claim your winnings…*

NEXT WEEK

WIN!

BJÖRN GELOTTE LES PAUL CUSTOM GUITAR!

We've teamed up with guitar heroes Gibson and Swedish metallers In Flames to offer the ultimate shredding prize! If you fancy getting your hands on Björn Gelotte's killer signature guitar, here's what we're looking for… 1) A drawing of any band building a snowman – bonus points if said snowman looks like a well-known rockstar. 2) A selfie with Santa Claus – real or fake – throwing the Devil horns. 3) A photo of an item of festive food in the shape of Metallica. More info on Kerrang.com – good luck!

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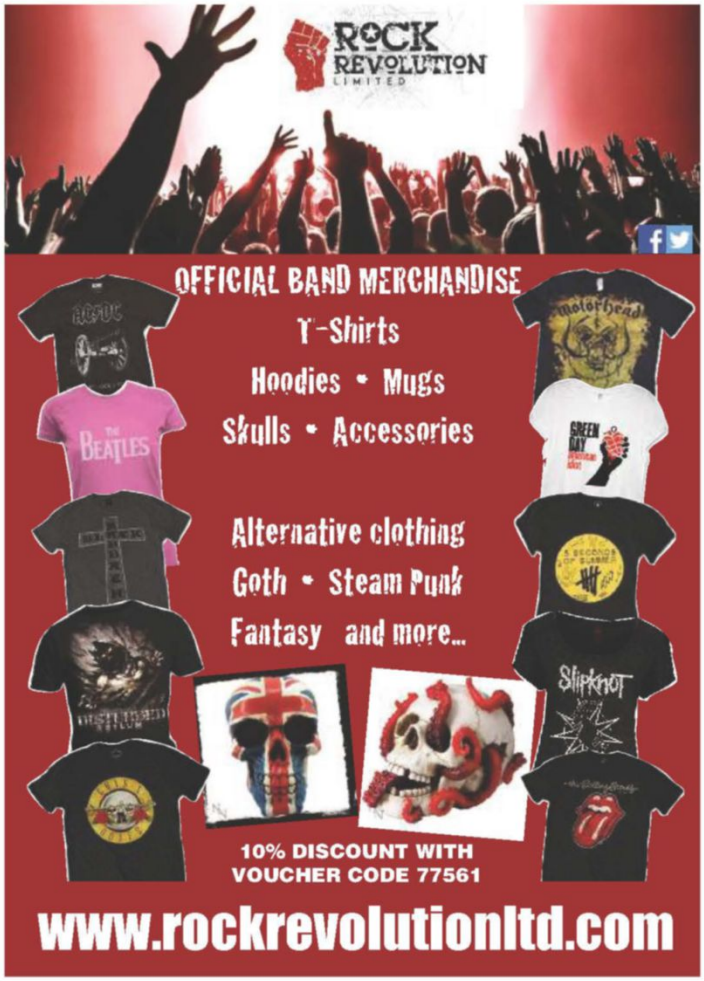

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THE 2017 ROCK REVIEW

A LOT CAN HAPPEN IN 12 MONTHS. THIS YEAR HAS GIVEN US JOY, SADNESS, TRIUMPHS AND ODD STUFF. JOIN US AS WE EXAMINE THE EVENTS AND THE MUSIC OF 2017...

WORDS: STEVE BEEBEE, JAMES HINGLE, SAM LAW, JAMES MACKINNON, DAVID McLAUGHLIN, NICK RUSKELL, AMIT SHARMA, DAN SLESSOR, OLLY THOMAS, PAUL TRAVERS, SIMON YOUNG

TURN OVER FOR 12 MONTHS OF ROCK MAYHEM!

JANUARY

KICK OFF 2017 GENTLY? NAH, LET'S SAY HELLO TO A MANIAC, HAVE TANKS ONSTAGE, A BIG PROTEST, AND THE MADDENS COOKING…

PAUL HARRIES

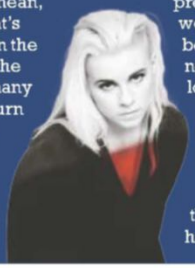
M. Shadows was still a little fuzzy on the science of how a mic works

The Women's March: massive

GETTY

I REMEMBER...

THE WOMEN'S MARCH WAS A DIRECT CHALLENGE TO SEXISM. PVRIS' LYNN GUNN THREW HER SUPPORT BEHIND IT...



"It was such a big moment, a feeling of reaffirmation for women everywhere. I feel both sides [of the issue] when I think about it. On one hand, the fact that a march actually needed to happen really just highlights the scale of the problem in society. I mean, it's 2017 – that's upsetting. On the other hand, the fact that so many people did turn out to take a stand for equality felt really hopeful.

"Beyond the Women's March, the whole feminist movement that's been ongoing in the background has meant that so many necessary conversations are being had, a lot of people are opening up, and a lot of people are being held accountable where previously they wouldn't have been. That's been needed for a long, long time. There are an awful lot of negatives, but the positive to be taken is that the conversation has been started."

It would be fair to describe 2016 as a bastard 12-month hellride, so the start of a new year brought with it hope that the next 12 months wouldn't be as bleak as the last. And so, with Auld Lang Syne ringing in our ears, we looked onward to a glorious new dawn. And what better way to kick off the year than with a couple of ridiculously large tours?

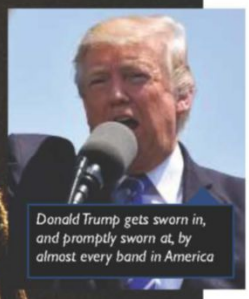
Well, alright then. This task of fell at the feet of Swedish metallers **SABATON** and good old **AVENGED SEVENFOLD**, who showed our New Year's hangovers no signs of mercy. No, really, Sabaton had *a tank* onstage. But even that couldn't outgun Huntington Beach's finest, who hit our arenas with an ear-pummeling, retina-frying show. They also turned their hand to shopkeeping, as they opened Vlauder Lauder's General Store in London for four days in January, selling exclusive merch before blowing the roof off The O2. Figuratively, of course.

While that lot were delivering the riffs in the UK, the U.S. braced itself for a four-year rollercoaster as **DONALD TRUMP** was sworn in as the 45th President of the United States of America at the Capitol Building in Washington DC. **PROPHETS OF RAGE** responded by holding their own anti-inauguration ball at the 600-capacity Teragram Ballroom in LA, which was streamed live on Facebook. Hosted by **JACK BLACK**, the former Rage Against The Machine members were joined by **CHRIS CORNELL**, making it the first time **AUDIOSLAVE** had performed together in over 10 years. "Don't agonise, organise," said guitarist **TOM MORELLO**, before Prophets Of Rage ended with Killing In The Name.

The following day, **GREEN DAY** frontman **BILLIE JOE ARMSTRONG** hailed his mother as a hero as she participated in the **WOMEN'S MARCH**, which was attended by an estimated three million activists across America. "She raised six kids with a waitress job," wrote Billie Joe on Instagram. "She has the greatest work ethic I've ever witnessed. She is my role model and she's a revolutionary."

Albums-wise, 2017 got off to a good start with a brand-new album from **YOU ME AT SIX**, their first in three years. Kerrang! said of Night People: "There's a monochrome coolness to everything." It charted at Number Three in the UK album charts, so we were right to say it was good. On the heavier end of the scale, **CODE ORANGE** delivered Forever, an album that redefined hardcore, and made them the year's most vital band.

For LOL-fans, January was a wheeze in more ways than one, as over in Los Angeles, a 30-year-old artist called **ZACHARY FERNANDEZ** scaled the iconic Hollywood sign on New Year's Day, and the city woke up to see he'd changed the sign to **HOLLYWEED**. *Chortle*. And if that didn't scratch your itch for daftness, **GOOD CHARLOTTE**'s Madden twins put their culinary skills to the test on a celebrity version of **MASTERCHEF** in Australia. Ridiculous. And this was just the *start* of the year. Good grief...


Donald Trump gets sworn in, and promptly sworn at, by almost every band in America

THEY SAID *WHAT?*

"WE HAVE ENOUGH MATERIAL AND IDEAS TO KEEP US GOING FOR THE REST OF OUR LIVES!"

LARS ULRICH ASSURES US THAT IT WON'T BE NINE YEARS BEFORE THE NEXT METALLICA ALBUM

IN OTHER NEWS

- ***Ice-T*** *revealed Megadeth's* ***Dave Mustaine*** *and Lamb Of God's* ***Randy Blythe*** *would be on* ***Body Count****'s new album, Bloodlust. Ooooh, put the kettle on, Ice...*
- *A picture on* ***Slayer****'s Instagram featuring* ***Donald Trump*** *mysteriously disappeared. "I never would have guessed that there where so many snowflakes commenting their distaste for the new president," said* ***Tom Araya****. Um, choose your words more carefully, mate?*
- ***Queens Of The Stone Age*** *made their feelings on* ***Trump*** *known on Instagram: "This man is a shallow, inept, multi-bankrupt declaring, narcissistic, narrow minded, out of touch, objectifying, barf inducing, fascist, clown penis."*
- *It was revealed that* ***Guns N' Roses****' South American tour grossed over $56,545,000 (£41,860,245 and 34 pence). The bastards...*

FEBRUARY

A MONTH FULL OF PANTS, UFOS, CHEESE, GRAINS, SPLITS, AND REALLY STICKING IT TO TRUMP...

We hope for Gaga's sake James Hetfield had Clorets on his rider

Well, it had to happen sooner or later. On February 4, **BLACK SABBATH** returned to the city where it all started and played their final show at Birmingham's Genting Arena. But what a way to bow out. Their last-ever set was jaw-dropping, opening with Black Sabbath before delivering crushing versions of N.I.B., Iron Man, Children Of The Grave and Para– what's that? No, mate, *you're* the one who's crying.

Also signing off in 2017, after 20 years of madness, **THE DILLINGER ESCAPE PLAN** announced they were calling last orders. Luckily, they all walked away with their lives after they were involved in a serious bus crash during their farewell European tour. "Remember how valuable life is," they wrote on Facebook, "We are all lucky to be alive." Fortunately, they recovered to tear up the UK one final time at Download. It was chaos. Y'know, as expected.

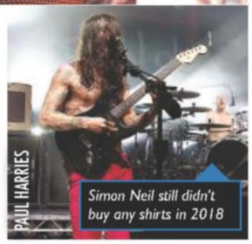
As winter continued to outstay its welcome, **GREEN DAY** made their much-missed presence felt by embarking on their first proper UK arena tour in *eight* years. And, as they re-asserted their status as one of the best live bands in the world, Billie Joe Armstrong found time to sum up the entire year during American Idiot with a pithy "Fuck you, Donald Trump!" Quite...

In underpants news, **TWENTY ONE PILOTS** dropped their trousers at the 59th annual **GRAMMY AWARDS** to reveal what trunks they'd elected to wear for the occasion. But for good reason, apparently.

The duo – who picked up Best Pop Duo/Group Performance for their song Stressed Out – revealed that when they formed, they promised themselves that if they ever won a GRAMMY, they'd collect it in their trollies. It's good to have a goal. Yet that wasn't the oddest thing to happen at the ceremony – **METALLICA** performed Moth Into Flame with **LADY GAGA**. It was all going so well until James Hetfield's mic cut out, and the song ended with the frontman throwing his guitar offstage in anger. "I felt embarrassed – I haven't been that angry in a long time," he said later. No shit...

And as if that wasn't enough 'WTF?' for one month, **ANGELS & AIRWAVES** frontman **TOM DELONGE** was named UFO Researcher Of The Year at the 2017 **INTERNATIONAL UFO CONGRESS**. "My job has only just begun on this subject matter," he said in his acceptance speech. "There's some big shit planned and I'm excited about it. Just remember: whatever happens in the civilian world, it's game on." Right then, challenge accepted!

Good causes now, and with the help of their fans, **ALL TIME LOW** raised a ton of cash for the **ACLU**, a civil liberties organisation in the U.S. taking action against Donald Trump's ban on immigrants from seven Muslim-majority countries entering America. A T-shirt saying 'Open hearts, open minds' raised $12,000, and the band matched that amount. On our own rain-lashed rock, meanwhile, **BIFFY CLYRO** did their bit for charity by playing a tiny, tiny show at London's O2 Shepherd's Bush Empire in aid of **WAR CHILD**. "We're so happy to be able to support them in any way we can, however small that may be," they said. Hats off to both bands!



PAUL HARRIES

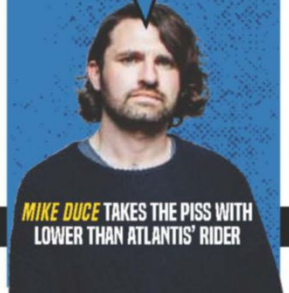
Simon Neil still didn't buy any shirts in 2018

And have you heard of **THE CHEESE AND GRAIN** in Frome? Yes, but only because **FOO FIGHTERS** played a tiny show in the Somerset shoebox as a way of revealing they were headlining Glastonbury. In the audience were members of '90s West Country rockers Reef, so you know it was an important do.

Foo fans went crackers at The Cheese And Grain

THEY SAID *WHAT?*

"IF I TURNED UP TO A VENUE AND THERE WAS NO WATER, I WOULDN'T KICK OFF – I'D JUST DRINK IT OUT OF THE TOILET"



MIKE DUCE **TAKES THE PISS WITH LOWER THAN ATLANTIS' RIDER**

RY

I REMEMBER...

OZZY OSBOURNE ON THE NIGHT WHEN BLACK SABBATH BROUGHT THE CURTAIN DOWN ONE FINAL TIME...

"Playing the final show was great, but sad. I'm sad that it's over, because the time that I was in Sabbath for was amazing, and to finally have put it to rest feels weird, knowing we'll never do it again. But the gig was amazing. I was really nervous before, because if my voice went on the final gig, I'd have hated myself forever. I started getting a bit emotional at some points. After a couple of songs I loosened up and really enjoyed it. It felt great these past few years, being onstage with Tony [Iommi, guitar] and Geezer [Butler, bass] again, and to bring things to a close on our terms, in Birmingham, where the four of us grew up, was just fucking incredible, man. We never thought that we'd be alive in 2017, let alone playing to a home crowd like that!"

IN OTHER NEWS

- Former ***Rage Against The Machine*** *frontman* ***Zack de la Rocha*** *joined Run The Jewels onstage at the Shrine Auditorium in Los Angeles for a run-through of their track Close Your Eyes (And Count To Fuck).*

- ***Slipknot*** *guitarist* ***Mick Thomson*** *had an operation on his neck and spine. Don't believe him? He posted his x-rays online. "I recently joined the cyborg club. Sore as fuck but hope to be back to mid-2000s banging by our next record cycle."*

- *A hologram of* ***Ronnie James Dio*** *made its live debut at The Novo in Los Angeles, alongside the band Dio Disciples. Even after all these months, we still think it's a bit weird.*

- ***Star Wars*** *nerds* ***Galactic Empire*** *began streaming their self-titled album. Still not been given that cease and desist by George Lucas, lads?*

PAUL HARRIES

The werewolf transformation came at a very bad time

MARCH

CREEPER UNVEILED THEIR DEBUT, SUICIDE SILENCE UNLEASHED BILE, AND A DAY TO REMEMBER RECEIVED A SPECIAL HONOUR...

In a month where cake fanatics debated the merits of The Great British Bake Off's new stars (Sandi Toksvig, Noel Fielding and Prue Leith, if you're bothered) and Dame Vera Lynn – a sort of Hayley Williams for old soldiers – celebrated her 100th birthday, Kerrang! got very excited for a different reason. Namely, horror punks **CREEPER** releasing their long-awaited full-length debut, Eternity, In Your Arms, and cementing their reputation as Britain's coolest cult band. We couldn't get enough of the album and awarded it the full 5K treatment. Writer James Hickie frothed: "The ambitious magnificence of these songs ensures they'll inhabit larger venues in the coming years. It is, quite literally, life-affirming." Have you got your copy yet?

PLANNED PARENTHOOD, meanwhile, were shown support by **PVRIS** and **PANIC! AT THE DISCO**, who both released limited-edition T-shirts to raise awareness and funds for the American non-profit organisation. "We're doing these shirts to show our love and admiration for a cause that offers help for so many people – over 2.7 million women and men, in fact," said Panic's **BRENDON URIE**. "I also refuse to succumb to intimidation or threats; it's really the least we can do."

March may be remembered as a 'tricky time' for **SUICIDE SILENCE**. A fan called Vince Carmichael launched a petition to block the release of their self-titled album. Vocalist Eddie Hermida responded by saying, "We made a record for ourselves and not for our fans, so it's going to create turmoil. I'm not doing things to sell records, I'm doing things to create music and an art form." The album sold 4,650 in its first week – 69 per cent less than their previous album You Can't Stop Me. On March 15, the band trashed all the instruments during a show at Moscow's Yotaspace. Nothing to see here, folks. Move along.

Elsewhere, we tipped our hat to Finnish singer **JANI KORPELA**, who performed **SLIPKNOT**'s Psychosocial on Finland's version of The Voice. One judge, Hanoi Rocks vocalist Michael Monroe, slapped that button and spun around in a show of metal solidarity. Jani didn't win, though. Should've. But didn't. It wouldn't be the only collision of rock and TV in March, either, as Stranger Things star Noah Schnapp – or Will Byers – took time out of his supernatural torment in the Upside Down to join **PANIC! AT THE DISCO** onstage at New York's Madison Square Garden for a run through of LA Devotee. The actor shared a photo from backstage and joked, "I look like I just saw the demogorgon." We're not surprised – that venue is *massive*.

For a man perfectly happy to wear cowboy boots, it seemed only natural that **ASKING ALEXANDRIA** frontman Danny Worsnop would release a rootin' tootin' country album. We're guessing The Long Road Home was inspired by the dive bars that line sprawling American highways and not, in fact, the B1230 that would take you to his birthplace of Gilberdyke in the East Riding of Yorkshire. And talking of where bands hail from, **A DAY TO REMEMBER** were presented with the key to their hometown of Ocala, Florida, by the city's Mayor, Kent Guinn. Don't lose it!

Jeremy McKinnon and Kent Guinn attempt their own twenty one pilots handshake

ANDREW WENDOWSKI

Jani Korpela punishes his pipes with a 'Knot classic

THEY SAID *WHAT?!*

"IT'S NOT VERY GLAMOROUS, IS IT? EVEN THE RED CARPET'S A BIT SHIT..."

ROYAL BLOOD'S *MIKE KERR* CLEARLY ENJOYED THE BRIT AWARDS...

I REMEMBER...

WILL GOULD REFLECTS UPON CREEPER'S ROLLERCOASTER 2017...

"Our trajectory has been so wild, I could never have predicted it. We're so busy all the time, and so focused on what we're doing that we don't have much time to reflect on the things we've done. To do our headline tour, and play the Electric Ballroom in London, which was something much bigger than we ever thought it would be... it's wild! We have some very dedicated followers, and it's one of those things that you don't really anticipate when you first start a band."

GETTY

Christ, Millets is getting glamorous these days, isn't it?

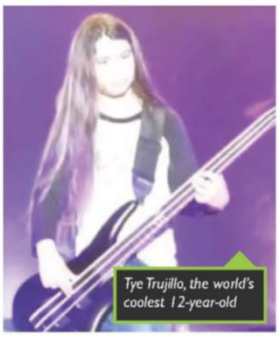
APRIL

EASTER EGGS? NAH, BIG OLD BOOTS IN APRIL. WHICH IS STILL MORE FUN THAN FYRE FEST...

Also getting big props from beyond the world of rock, April found **PANIC! AT THE DISCO**'s **BRENDON URIE** revealing that he was to star in **KINKY BOOTS** on Broadway at New York's Al Hirschfeld Theatre. The frontman announced his role as Charlie Price, who inherits his father's shoe factory and becomes mates with a drag artist called Lola. If you've not seen it, the story basically revolves around a pair of big red boots. "This has been on my bucket list for the longest time, and it really is a dream come true," said Brendon. "Plus you guys get to see me in heels now." Which, incidentally was on *our* bucket list.

In other 'people turning up on stages you don't expect them to' happenings, **TYE TRUJILLO** – son of **METALLICA** bassist Rob – stood in for **KORN** bassist Fieldy on their South American tour, after the dready five-stringer was unable to make the shows due to "unforeseen circumstances". Twelve-year-old Tye smashed it, but sadly he didn't bust out his dad's signature crab walk. Next time...

OF MICE & MEN proved there's life after Austin Carlile, as they released a brand-new song Unbreakable. Frontman **AARON PAULEY** showed he's a more-than-capable frontman on a track that is about "staring fear in the face". Which is all good news. The same can't be said about **LETLIVE.**, sadly, who ruined their fans' year by announcing that there would be "no further activity for the foreseeable future" due to "divergence in views and aims" within the band.



Tye Trujillo, the world's coolest 12-year-old

Luckily for us, their livewire frontman **JASON AALON BUTLER** was plotting something new already...

Did you know that **BLINK-182** could predict the future? Us neither, but they exhibited oddly useful psychic powers when they announced they were pulling out of **FYRE FEST** in the Bahamas. The event itself was a disaster, with punters who'd paid thousands for 'luxury' packages reporting no security, terrible food, and poor transport leaving them stranded. One unlucky ticket holder, @WNFIV, tweeted: "[It's] a complete disaster. Mass chaos. No organisation. No-one knows where to go. There are no villas, just a disaster tent city." Should have bought tickets to Download, mate.

On a happier note, **PEARL JAM** were inducted into the **ROCK & ROLL HALL OF FAME**. The band were joined by former drummer Dave Krusen on Alive, while current sticksman Matt Cameron returned to the kit for Given To Fly and Better Man. Well done, lads. Now make a new album...

THEY SAID *WHAT?*

"I THINK WE'RE JUST ENERGY FLOATING THROUGH THE UNIVERSE FOR THE REST OF TIME..."

AVENGED GUITARIST **ZACKY VENGEANCE** PREDICTS A LONG CAREER...

I REMEMBER...

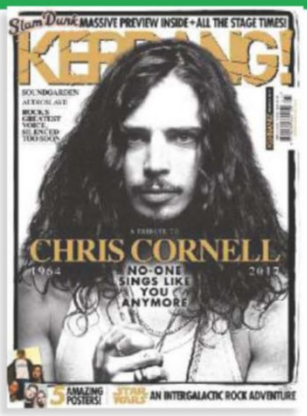
OM&M RETURNED IN APRIL. HOW'S AARON PAULEY TAKING TO BEING A FRONTMAN?

"At first it was a little weird playing shows with me singing, but really, I just stand in a different part of the stage! It doesn't feel that different. For me, it's made it much more enjoyable; if it was something drastically different or something I felt I had to learn to adapt to, that might have made it more challenging. I'm still with my dudes, I've still got my bass, I'm singing the parts I used to and screaming here and there. I feel like we're all locked into the vibe. So far, it's been awesome."

MAY

A TIME OF SADNESS GIVES WAY TO AN OUTPOURING OF LOVE, AND A MONTH IN WHICH GREAT THINGS ARE CELEBRATED...

Rou from Enter Shikari wasn't sure the advance-order iPhone X he got in the pub was entirely legit

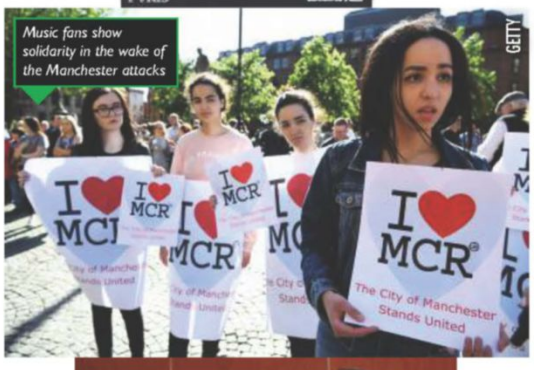


The month of May cast a dark cloud over the music world. Hours after **SOUNDGARDEN** had performed a concert at the Fox Theatre in Detroit on May 17, frontman **CHRIS CORNELL** took his own life in his room at the MGM Grand hotel. He was 52 years old. In the wake of the devastating news, the stunned and shocked rock world came together to pay tribute to the iconic musician, including Black Sabbath guitarist Tony Iommi, Judas Priest's Rob Halford, and Linkin Park's Chester Bennington.

"My dark knight is gone," said Soundgarden drummer Matt Cameron, while Chris' former Audioslave bandmates – Prophets Of Rage's Tom Morello, Brad Wilk and Tim Commerford – posted a video online of themselves playing an instrumental version of their song Like A Stone. Meanwhile, Guns N' Roses paid tribute to their friend by putting a live cover of Black Hole Sun into their set list.

Less than a week later, the music world came together once again in support of those affected by the terrorist attack during a concert by pop star **ARIANA GRANDE**. A bomb was detonated at the Manchester Arena on May 22, leaving 22 fans dead and over 500 injured. KISS, who were forced to cancel their show scheduled for May 30, donated one of Paul Stanley's Ibanez guitars signed by the frontman to the Royal Manchester Children's Hospital in order to raise funds for their paediatric intensive care unit where many fans were treated. "Royal Manchester Children's Hospital's incredible work with children was never more evident than after this horrific event," said the band. "We are humbled to be able to give something to support them in their ongoing efforts." Elsewhere, PVRIS donated a rare test pressing of their Acoustic EP (*pictured right*) – one of five in existence – and raised around £400 for families affected by the attack.

Thankfully, there were some glimmers of good news during May as well. **ENTER SHIKARI** celebrated a decade of their Take To The Skies debut by playing it in full at **SLAM DUNK**. Then there was **PARAMORE** overcoming the departure of longtime bassist Jeremy Davis, and returning with **AFTER LAUGHTER**. Their new album saw former drummer Zac Farro rejoin Hayley Williams and guitarist Taylor York for the first time in seven years, healing a long-standing rift. "I think you rarely get to experience real full-circle redemption in your lifetime," said Hayley at the time. "And this thing that happened that really affected [mine and Taylor's] lives and affected Zac's life, too, to kind of have closure was really beautiful."



Music fans show solidarity in the wake of the Manchester attacks

To academia now, where **OFFSPRING** frontman **DEXTER HOLLAND** found himself embroiled in a punk-rock-doc-shock, after he completed his PhD in Molecular Biology and graduated from the University of Southern California. His 175-page thesis – Discovery Of Mature MicroRNA-Sequences Within The Protein-Coding Regions Of Global HIV-1 Genomes: Predictions Of Novel Mechanisms For Viral Infection And Pathogenicity – can be read on the university website. "I am interested in virology and wanted to contribute in some small way to the knowledge which has been learned about HIV and AIDS," said the frontman of his ginormous bit of homework. If anyone can be arsed to read it, let us know if it's a page-turner.

And, equally clever, we had the return of **TWIN PEAKS**, which offered 18 new episodes. That called for, in the words of Special Agent Dale Cooper, "a damn fine cup of coffee." We'd like to offer a spoiler, but to be honest, we're still not really sure what happened in it...

Twin Peaks: this probably means something very clever and complicated

THEY SAID *WHAT?*

"I'VE SEEN BANDS COVER ALL TIME LOW; THEY USUALLY PLAY THE SONGS BETTER THAN WE DO!"

ALL TIME LOW GUITARIST *JACK BARAKAT* TALKS HIMSELF OUT OF A JOB...

Chris Cornell, a legend: 1964 – 2017

GETTY

IN OTHER NEWS

● The late, great **Lemmy Kilmister** appeared as a character in the video game Victor Vran as part of the game's Motörhead Through The Ages add-on content.

● **Metallica** drummer **Lars Ulrich** announced that he was to host his own It's Electric! radio show on **Apple Music**'s **Beats 1**.

● **Tool** and **A Perfect Circle** fans found themselves not-at-all surprised when the bands' Twitter accounts shot down rumours of new music coming before the end of the year. Almost as not-surprised as when APC did actually release a song in October…

● **King 810** revealed that they were to stream their video for La Petite Mort via Pornhub.com. Nope, we've never heard of that site either.

I REMEMBER…

ENTER SHIKARI CELEBRATED THEIR 10TH BIRTHDAY BY PLAYING THEIR DEBUT AT SLAM DUNK. ROU REYNOLDS LOOKS BACK…

"About a year before the anniversary there were a lot of whispers on social media, asking if we were going to do something to mark it. At first I wasn't up for it at all, but talking about *how* we could do it, I started to get really excited. I was scared that if we did a full tour it would lose its specialness, which is why we limited it to a handful of shows. Having not played a lot of the songs in years, we had to go back and learn them again! The one thing I'll most remember, though, is the Leeds show, where the stage was close to an NHS hospital. Being before the election, I gave a little speech about that and how important it was to safeguard the NHS, and there was such a feeling of camaraderie in the air – it was amazing, and I'm really glad that we did it."

JUNE

A POLITICIAN, A METAL INVASION, THE FUNNIEST FIGHT EVER, AND THE REUNION TOUR YOU NEVER THOUGHT YOU'D SEE IN YOUR LIFETIME...

MIRRORPIX

Despite Axl's best efforts, Slash would not be put off during the intro to Sweet Child O' Mine

Jeremy managed to stay awake while Sam once again droned on about Manchester United

IN OTHER NEWS

● **Iron Maiden** *announced plans to release a comic book based on the Legacy Of The Beast phone game. "Eddie must journey across space and time to battle the twisted legions of The Beast, seek out the lost shards of his soul, and bring order to the realms," said a spokesperson for the publisher Heavy Metal.*

● **Code Orange** *guitarist Reba Meyers revealed she broke one of her legs at a trampoline park.*

● **Napalm Death** *vocalist Barney Greenway taught MP Ed Miliband to sing in his grindcore style during Ed's show on Radio 2. No, really...*

● **KISS'** *Gene Simmons attempted, and failed, to copyright the devil horns, to widespread boos. The oaf...*

In a month where it was conformed that two black holes had hit each other and caused a ripple in the fabric of time (no, really, scientists at the American-led Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory saw it with a fancy telescope), British rock fans were gearing up for a gargantuan spectacle of their own. Back in 2012, when **AXL ROSE** was asked about the chances of reuniting with the original core of **GUNS N' ROSES**, he replied, "Not in this lifetime." Well, it happened in 2016, and the Not In This Lifetime... tour finally hit British soil this summer as the band – featuring Slash and Duff back in the ranks – played two shows at the London Stadium. Imagine Axl's embarrassment as he was served up a dish of humble pie. That and the millions he's earned on their current world tour. *Awkward...*

But that wasn't even the biggest thing to happen in June, for this was the month that the UK was gripped by Election Fever, and we featured Labour leader **JEREMY CORBYN** on the cover of our June 7 issue, alongside future parliamentarians **SAM CARTER** of **ARCHITECTS**, and **CREEPER** vocalist **WILL GOULD**. While Labour failed to secure their position as Britain's governing party, Jez secured his position as our favourite politician, and offered a glimpse of hope as the future looks pretty sour for the next four years.

And the politics didn't stop there for **RISE AGAINST** frontman **TIM McILRATH**. The socially-minded punk frontman made his way to Speakers' Corner at Hyde Park, a site famous for people to air their views in front of passing tourists, for a few words. Armed with an acoustic guitar, he performed versions of Everchanging, People Live Here, Hero Of War and Swing Life Away. "I love the symbolism of it all," Tim told Kerrang!, shortly before doing The Lambeth Walk with a bunch of pearlies down the apples and pears. Probably.

THEY SAID *WHAT?*

"I GOT A PROPER BULLET BELT LAST CHRISTMAS, SO I'M GOING TO WEAR THAT IN THE HOPE THAT I GET ACCEPTED BY THE INTENSE METALHEADS!"

BIFFY CLYRO'S *SIMON NEIL* PACKS HIS SUITCASE READY FOR DOWNLOAD

From the ballot box to the mobile thunder box now, for June signalled the start of festival season proper. **BIFFY CLYRO** made their debut as **DOWNLOAD** headliners,and absolutely nailed it. Extra kudos goes to frontman Simon Neil, who managed to sneak in a nod to the following night's headliners Aerosmith with a cheeky riff from Walk This Way during Living Is A Problem Because Everything Dies. At the other end of the country a couple of weekends later, **GLASTONBURY** rocked thanks to headliners **FOO FIGHTERS**, who more than made-up for their no-show in 2015 after Dave Grohl broke his leg. Weirdly, though, Foos weren't even the noisiest thing there. Legendary Brit extreme metal label Earache had a stage, featuring **NAPALM DEATH** amongst a host of other ear-bleeders, whose grinding riffs surely caused some revellers to choke on their quinoa.

On the continent, **METALLICA** drummer **LARS ULRICH** became a knight this summer. Not the kind in a heavy suit of armour, though – he was awarded

TONY WOOLLISCROFT

Hands up if you're headlining Glasto!

TOM BARNES

NICKY KELVIN

Nice to see Tim still had time to scratch his arse at Speakers' Corner

the Knight's Cross of The Order Of Dannebrog by **FREDERIK, CROWN PRINCE OF DENMARK**. "Not bad for a snot-nosed kid from Gentofte," Lars noted. How very stately…

We haven't had a good ruck for a while, so we were delighted with **COREY TAYLOR** and **CHAD KROEGER**'s childish, hilarious beef. "Corey Taylor has said some really nasty things about me and talks about how easy it is to write a hit song," said Chad. "Well, show me. Show me. Write one. I have yet to hear one. [Stone Sour are] okay, but they're not as good as Nickelback. They sound like Nickelback Lite." Well, Corey wasn't going to take that, was he? "Chad Kroeger is to rock what KFC is to chicken," taunted the Slipknot frontman, adding that his opponent had "a face like a foot". He then got *really* mean. "All I know is, I've been voted Sexiest Dude In Rock wearing a mask. You've been voted Ugliest Dude In Rock – *twice* – without one. Stick that up your ass." *Meow*, gents…

Ding! Ding! It's the ruck of the year!

ROYAL BLOOD had a slightly less nasty duel of their own with Nickelback, when their second album, How Did We Get So Dark?, pipped them at the post to the Number 1 spot. Gales of howling laughter coming from Des Moines were also reported that week.

FIVE FINGER DEATH PUNCH's wheels almost fell off at a show in Tilburg, Netherlands. Frontman **IVAN MOODY** was late for the gig, leaving Tommy Vext of Bad Wolves to fill in. When Ivan arrived, he told the crowd, "This is my last show with Five Finger Death Punch." We're glad to report it was not, and he's back in the band after seeking help for addictions.

And in funk-rock-bassist news, **FLEA** added **BABY DRIVER** to his long list of acting credits. As part of a robbery, the Red Hot Chili Peppers four-stringer is handed an Austin Powers mask instead of one featuring Michael Myers from Halloween. If you've not seen the film, the titular character is actually a grown man. Because how would a baby reach the pedals in a car?

I REMEMBER…

RISE AGAINST FRONTMAN TIM McILRATH WENT TO SPEAKERS' CORNER. WELL, HE DID WHEN HE EVENTUALLY FOUND IT…

"We wanted to do something a little different. Having a vague idea of what Speakers' Corner was when it was suggested to us, I looked into it. Everything I learned about its history and its connection to politics made it a very interesting venue, and I really liked the idea of showing up and playing some songs there. We actually didn't find *anybody* who'd come to see us initially, because we were in the wrong place! But then we found a cluster of fans, and one immediately requested a song, and I asked him to hold my guitar while I grabbed my pick. He started to play the song, and I sang. That was great, and we kept things loose. Some of the other songs definitely touched upon the times we're living in right now, and it was cool to chat with people there."

JULY

WE LOST A HERO, BUT WE ALSO REMEMBERED TO ENJOY WHAT WE'VE STILL GOT...

It still feels odd to talk about **CHESTER BENNINGTON** in the past tense. But, sadly, we must. On July 20, it was reported that the **LINKIN PARK** frontman had taken his own life at home in Palos Verdes Estates, Los Angeles County, aged just 41.

"Our hearts are broken," his bandmates wrote in a statement titled 'Dear Chester'. "Your absence leaves a void that can never be filled – a boisterous, funny, ambitious, creative, kind, generous voice in the room is missing. We're trying to remind ourselves that the demons who took you away from us were always part of the deal. After all, it was the way you sang about those demons that made everyone fall in love with you in the first place. You fearlessly put them on display, and in doing so, brought us together and taught us to be more human. You had the biggest heart, and managed to wear it on your sleeve. We love you, and miss you so much."

Tributes poured in from across the rock world, from artists and fans alike, all of whom had been touched by Chester and his music. "It leaves live music deprived of a charismatic frontman – a showman, even – who could make even the biggest stages around the world feel intimate, as if every word and note was for you and you alone," wrote K! Editor Sam Coare in our own salute. "It leaves those closest to him without a husband, father, son, bandmate and friend. It leaves the world one true original less."

In spite of the tragedy, we were reminded of the importance of enjoying life with your family and friends. Which we all did round at K! Towers when **COREY TAYLOR** acted as **GUEST EDITOR** for a week.

There was a distinct Taylor flavour to the issue, as he plastered the pages with stuff about comics, his buddy Randy Blythe from Lamb Of God, horror movies and anything else that came into his head while we did all the work. "If you like what you read, then I take full credit for it," he wrote in his Editor's Letter. "If you don't, however, then it's all K!'s fault and I wash my hands of the fucking thing. Enjoy, or don't – it's no skin off my nuts." Charming. But it went smoother than we anticipated and only *two* desks were smashed during his stay. That's when he wasn't wearing a face mask...

To matters pop-punk now, and **BLINK-182** returned to the UK, playing to a whopping 100,000 fans across two weeks on our fair isle. That's more than the entire population of Bath, if any budding demographists are reading. So what did we learn from the California punk heroes while they were over here? First, guitarist **MATT SKIBA** practices Transcendental Meditation, while bassist **MARK HOPPUS** revealed that he and his new co-vocalist take part in a touring "book club". That'll explain his thick-rimmed glasses, then. The massive nerd.

There was no time for books at **2000TREES**, unless that book was 'How To Be The Coolest British Festival Of The Summer'. While you try to locate said fictional tome, know that the three-day bash at Upcote Farm, Gloucestershire was an absolute belter, showcasing a healthy chunk of the best bands this Brexit-stained island has to offer: **SLAVES**, **NOTHING BUT THIEVES**, **COUNTERFEIT**, **LOWER THAN ATLANTIS**, **MILK TEETH**, **EMPLOYED TO SERVE** ... just loads, alright?

THEY SAID *WHAT?*

"I'D DO A LIVE ALBUM CALLED 'FROM THE MUDDY BANKS OF LOCH LOMOND'..."

SAM McTRUSTY HAS A NIRVANA-FLAVOURED IDEA FOR TWIN ATLANTIC'S NEXT RELEASE...

PAUL HARRIES

Two friends: Chester Bennington and Mike Shinoda

IN OTHER NEWS

● ***Deaf Havana*** *frontman James Veck-Gilodi revealed just how far his good manners stretch. "I threw up in my mouth at a festival, then had to swallow it because I was talking to someone and I didn't want to be rude and spit it out," he revealed. It's this dedication to etiquette that will hold young James in good stead at the Royal Wedding next year…*

● ***Marilyn Manson*** *paid tribute to his father Hugh in an emotional post on Instagram. "He taught me how to be a man, a fighter and a survivor," he wrote. "He will always be the best dad in the world. Somehow and somewhere, I know he is with my mom now. I will keep my promise and never let you down."*

● ***Foo Fighters*** *frontman Dave Grohl revealed that* ***Boyz II Men****'s Shawn Stockman added vocals to their album Concrete And Gold's title-track. "It's the heaviest song on the entire record," Dave explained. "He built a choir. It's like 40 vocals stacked. It's insane."*

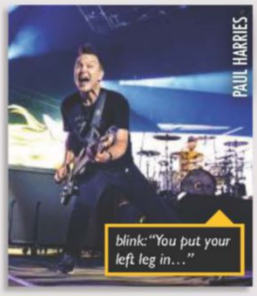
● ***The Darkness*** *released All The Pretty Girls, the first cut from their new album,* ***Pinewood Smile****. What's a Pinewood Smile? "It's like a Hollywood smile, but British," explained frontman Justin Hawkins. But of course.*

NADINE BALLANTYNE

The luxury package at 2000trees really was worth the cash

Oh, and if Belgian trios with singing drummers are more your thing, then **BRUTUS** would have been right up your *straat*. Which is the Dutch word for 'street'.

And just when we least expected it… POW! **NINE INCH NAILS** surprised everyone by releasing a new five-track EP, **ADD VIOLENCE**, on July 19, two days ahead of its scheduled release. We weren't complaining, you understand, but it's nice to have a proper run-up to get yourself prepared for such a thing. "I wanted the music to sound kind of ugly and to sound unfriendly, not suck you in with a sexy hook," said **TRENT REZNOR**. Well, with that really long, looping noise at the end, you've certainly managed that, champ.



PAUL HARRIES

blink: "You put your left leg in…"

I REMEMBER…

COREY TAYLOR TOOK CHARGE AT KERRANG! FOR AN ISSUE. IT WAS *DEFINITELY* THE EASIEST WEEK EVER. HONEST…

"My memories of being guest Editor are largely to do with that fucking face mask you guys made me put on, as part of my rundown of the face masks I recommended readers use. I still wake up in a cold sweat now thinking that fucking thing is still on me, and I've had to wear some pretty intense masks in my time. Honestly, I'm sure that my solicitors have contacted you guys at this point, to let you know that my pain and suffering must be paid for. I make no apologies for the fact that I'm going to take you fuckers for every penny you have. The trip to [comic shop] Forbidden Planet was a highlight. I could have spent eight hours and hundreds of dollars in that fucking place. Everybody in the Kerrang! office was great to me, and I really appreciate their patience putting up with my weirdness."

AUGUST

POLITICAL AND NATURAL UPHEAVAL STRUCK THE USA, BRINGING ROCK'S SENSE OF COMMUNITY TO THE FORE...

THEY SAID *WHAT?*

"I LOVE KEBABS, BUT THEY DON'T LOVE ME!"

IRON MAIDEN'S *STEVE HARRIS* ISN'T A FOOD CRITIC BY TRADE

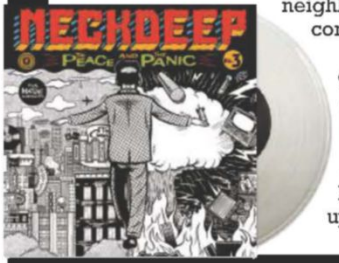
Far-right campaigners and protestors clash in Charlottesville, Virginia

GETTY

To politics, and the rock world was quick to condemn the far-right rally that took place in Charlottesville, Virginia on August 11 and 12, which left 32-year-old Heather Heyer dead and many more injured as a car deliberately ploughed into protestors. **PARAMORE**'s **HAYLEY WILLIAMS** tweeted: "The news makes me sick and so do racists in suits who dance around the fact that NAZIS are parading thru the streets in broad daylight." **THE WONDER YEARS**' **DAN CAMPBELL** added: "This feels self-evident, but apparently it's not: fuck white supremacists. Some true bottom-of-the-humanity-barrel shit." It was up to Trump to castigate the far-right, but instead he had a brain fart during a press conference, stating, "I think there is blame on both sides." The tool.

A few days later, **HURRICANE HARVEY** caused an estimated $200 billion of damage to Houston, leaving 70 people dead and displacing thousands of families. Many bands raised money for those affected by the disaster, including **FALL OUT BOY**, who announced that their November show in the city would serve as a benefit for the hurricane relief effort. Weeks later, **GREEN DAY** streamed a backstage performance via Facebook Live to raise money and made a $100,000 donation. Good lads. And on a more hands-on level, **TRIVIUM**'s **MATT HEAFY** got his hands dirty preparing his house and his Florida neighbourhood for the coming storm.

Green Day: garage band



In better stuff going on in America, **NECK DEEP** owned the summer, being, categorically, the band who cleaned up at **WARPED TOUR** every day. Between that and their excellent The Peace And The Panic album charting everywhere where there's a chart, they had a bloody good summer, innit?

I REMEMBER...

NECK DEEP'S THE PEACE AND THE PANIC ROCKED THIS SUMMER. HOW WAS THAT, BEN?

"When we were making The Peace And The Panic it played on my mind that it was going to be a difficult task to top [2015's second album] Life's Not Out To Get You. At the same time, we thought the songs were better, but at no point did we expect it to go down the way it did. What mattered to us was that we were happy with it, but once we started getting positive reviews we were glad to know it wasn't a Some Kind Of Monster situation, where we were deluding ourselves into thinking what we'd done was good."

Across the other side of the Pacific, **BABYMETAL** put on their own festival with a difference in Minato, Tokyo, Nagoya and Osaka. Over the course of nine dates, the Five Fox shows were open to specific audiences including men, women, teenagers, school kids *and* those aged 60 and over, plus one for those in corpse paint. What if you're a fan who also happens to be a dog? Not this time, Fido.

Did you watch the **GAME OF THRONES** season seven finale? If so, you'll have spotted **MASTODON**'s **BRANN DAILOR**, **BILL KELLIHER** and **BRENT HINDS** returning for cameos, but only if you were eagle-eyed.

K! dedicated the August 12 cover to **SOPHIE LANCASTER** to mark the 10th anniversary of her death. Our writer Paul Travers spent two months in the company of Sophie's mother, Sylvia, and the charity set up in her daughter's name, to see the work being done to prevent hate crimes across the country. Read the full story on Kerrang.com.

The positive power of music was highlighted by another year of the **READING & LEEDS** festivals, which saw **ARCHITECTS** triumph on the Main Stage, **QOTSA** play two surprise sets, and **BRIAN JOHNSON** from **AC/DC** join **MUSE** onstage. Wish we were in Muse...

SEPTEMBER

FOOS SHOWED OFF THEIR PHONEBOOK, ARCHITECTS RETURNED, AND A CLOWN GAVE US NIGHTMARES...

Dave Grohl in 'Having A Whale Of A Time Playing His Guitar' shocker

PAUL HARRIES

Foos present the world's most elaborate Rickroll

After the heavy politics of August, we needed a pint or seven. Hello, then, to **FOO FIGHTERS**, who celebrated the release of their ninth studio album, Concrete And Gold, in style by opening their own pub in London's Bethnal Green. For six days, The Dundee Arms on Cambridge Heath Road was transformed into **THE FOO FIGHTERS ARMS**, serving up a heady mix of booze and exclusive merchandise – including a very British teapot and cup and saucer set. The boozer even hosted a special Foos-themed quiz, before shutting its doors on September 20. And the silliness didn't stop there. During their huge gig at London's O2 Arena, the band were joined onstage by none other than **RICK ASTLEY** for a run-through of Never Gonna Give You Up. We're not taking the piss, but it was amazing.

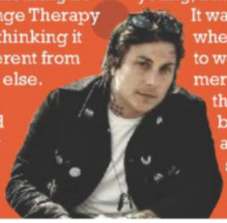
Also releasing new music were **ARCHITECTS**, who unleashed **DOOMSDAY**, their first new music without the late Tom Searle, who sadly passed away in 2016 following his three-year battle with cancer. "Doomsday is a song that Tom started," explained his brother and drummer Dan to Kl. "It's the last song he started to write; I remember him sending me the riff. It's really special to us that Tom's actual playing is on there. I think it's the perfect way of opening this new era of the band. Tom wanted to live. I've got to do this for him."

Sadly in September, the music world bid farewell to **GRANT HART**, former drummer of highly influential Minnesota punk trio **HÜSKER DÜ**, who died of heart failure, aged 56. "Grant was a gifted visual artist, a wonderful storyteller, and a frighteningly talented musician," said Grant's former bandmate **BOB MOULD**. "Everyone touched by his spirit will always remember. Godspeed, Grant. I miss you. Be with the angels."

In happier news, legendary emo heroes **JAWBREAKER** performed their third show in 21 years at Chicago's Riot Fest on September 17. The big reunion set – following two tiny warm-up performances the previous month – featured 15 songs from their four classic albums and were greeted with near-hysteria by moist-eyed emo history buffs.

I REMEMBER...

JAWBREAKER NERD FRANK IERO EXPLAINS WHAT THEIR REUNION MEANT TO HIM...



"I love that band so fucking much. That reunion was something I was hoping and praying for. I remember hearing 24 Hour Revenge Therapy [1994] and thinking it was so different from everything else. They were unashamed of who they were, what they were saying, how they were saying it, and I love that about them. I remember trying to sneak out to see them when I was really young, but I got caught. It was the show where they had to wear their own merch because their van got broken into and someone stole all their bags!"

In big news from Hollywood, it emerged that **GAME OF THRONES** star **PETER DINKLAGE** had a secret punk past. That's right, Tyrion Lannister used to front a band called Whizzy, who formed in the early '90s and earned the actor a facial scar after one particularly chaotic show at infamous New York punk fleapit CBGBs. And that wasn't the only bit of celluloid excitement in September, as we got the remake of clowny horror classic **IT**, starring Bill Skarsgård as **PENNYWISE THE CLOWN**. Who else forgot about their popcorn and proceeded to fill their trousers for two hours? We're just asking for a friend, honest.

Finally, **GHOST** frontman **PAPA EMERITUS III** performed his final show in Gothenburg on September 30. During the closing track, Monstrance Clock, the vocalist was dragged offstage and replaced by a frail old man in Popey attire, saying, "I am Papa Emeritus Zero. The party is over. The Middle Ages begin now." Um, someone get Ghost a calendar, it's 2017...

Pennywise: not the band

THEY SAID *WHAT?*

"NOT EVERY SONG HAS TO BE NOVEMBER RAIN WITH TWO GUITAR SOLOS!"

PETE WENTZ GETS SONGWRITING RIDICULOUSLY WRONG...

KERRANG!

2017 SHOTS OF THE YEAR

MILK TEETH & EMPLOYED TO SERVE
BECKY BLOMFIELD & JUSTINE JONES

PHOTO: ANDY FORD

KERRANG!

2017 SHOTS OF THE YEAR

ENTER SHIKARI

PHOTO: TOM BARNES

KERRANG!

2017 SHOTS OF THE YEAR

MASTODON

BILL KELLIHER & BRANN DAILOR

PHOTO: TOM BARNES

2017 SHOTS OF THE YEAR

BLOOD YOUTH

PHOTO: ANDY FORD

KERRANG!

2017 SHOTS OF THE YEAR

GUNS N' ROSES

PHOTO: GETTY

KERRANG!

2017 SHOTS OF THE YEAR

FRANK IERO

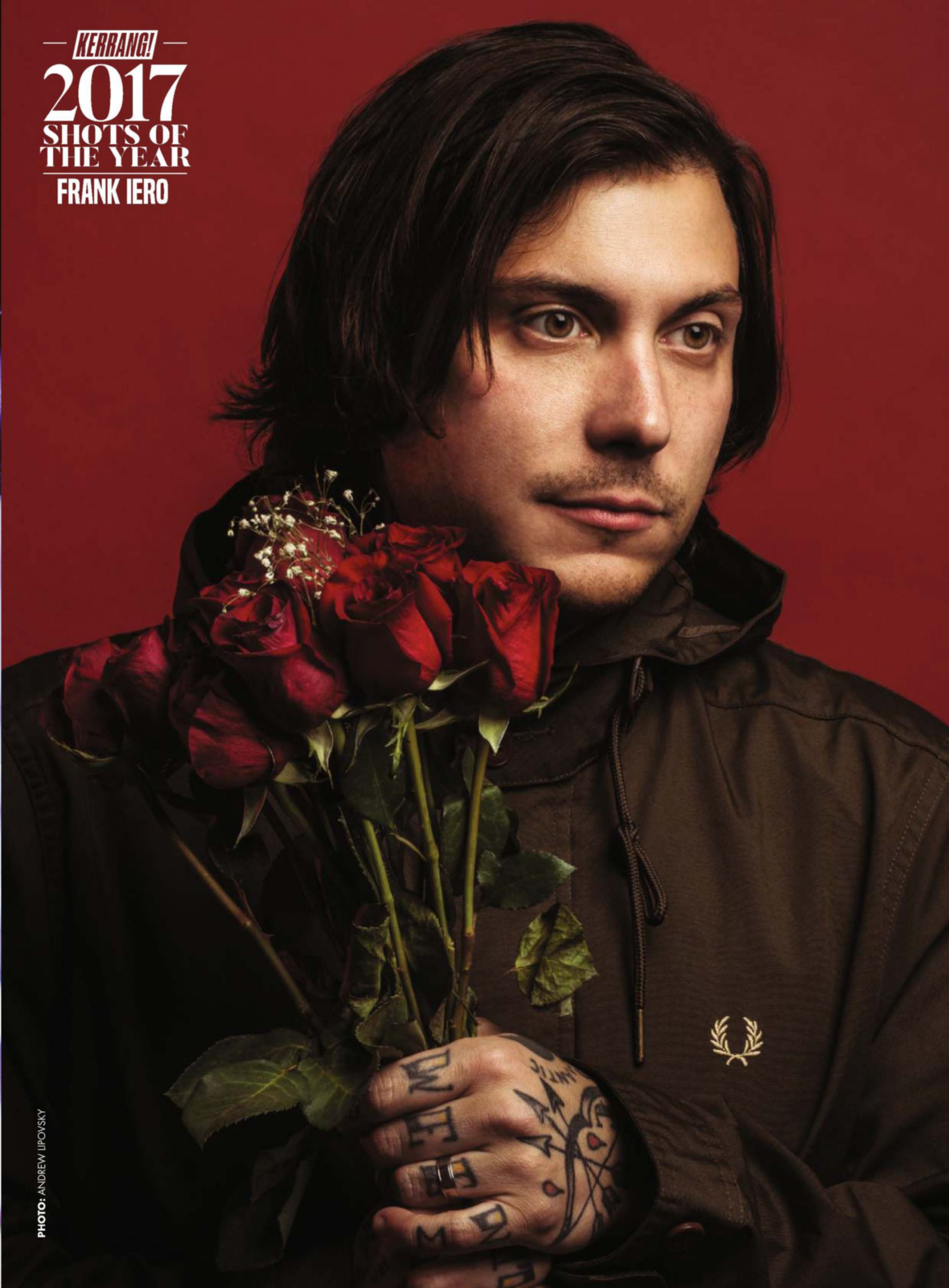


PHOTO: ANDREW LIPOVSKY

OCTOBER

A LONG-AWAITED HELLO AND A SAD FAREWELL TO TWO LEGENDS OF ROCK. PLUS: WHEN STAGE PROPS GO WRONG…

Celebrating Chester, with Linkin Park and friends

October could not come soon enough, as **METALLICA** embarked on their first full UK tour in eight years. And their five-date arena trek – joined by the mighty **KVELERTAK** – did not disappoint, with a career-spanning set list neatly balanced with tracks from their latest album, Hardwired… To Self-Destruct. And man, that production; performing in the round, each audience was treated to a 360-degree, retina-searing spectacle, with floating TV cubes and drones whizzing around the stage. Let's hope we don't have to wait until 2025 for the next tour…

Over at the Hollywood Bowl, **LINKIN PARK** invited friends and peers together to pay tribute to their late frontman Chester Bennington. For three hours, the gig, dubbed **LINKIN PARK & FRIENDS CELEBRATE LIFE IN HONOUR OF CHESTER BENNINGTON**, featured guest appearances from members of **BMTH**, **BLINK-182**, **A7X**, **SUM 41**, **SYSTEM OF A DOWN** and more. K! marked the occasion with a special issue, including a touching tribute by **MIKE SHINODA**, and we donated 26p from each issue sold in the UK and online to the **ONE MORE LIGHT FUND**, established in Chester's memory by Music For Relief.

Elsewhere, **30STM** frontman **JARED LETO** starred in **BLADE RUNNER 2049**. His character, Niander Wallace, is blind, so Jared being Jared threw himself into the role and stopped short of removing his eyes during filming. "I didn't dive as deep down the rabbit hole as maybe I've done before," said Jared, who wore sight-limiting contact lenses. "I'm crazy, but I'm not insane."

One week before the release of his new album, Heaven Upside Down, **MARILYN MANSON** broke his leg. During a show at New York's Hammerstein Ballroom on September 30, Manson grabbed onto a stage structure, which toppled onto him and fractured his fibula in two places, forcing the cancellation of nine dates. "The pain was excruciating," said The God of Fuck, That Hurt.

ALTER BRIDGE, meanwhile, avoided injury while bringing a touch of class to London's **ROYAL ALBERT HALL** across two nights performing with the Parallex Orchestra, a 52-piece symphony based in London.

The next bit might sound like a Ramones song, but October also brought the news that **IVANKA TRUMP** was a **PUNK ROCKER**. The daughter of President Donald Trump

IN OTHER NEWS

● ***Machine Head*'s *Robb Flynn*** *voiced concerns about playing their song Davidian – which features the line 'Let freedom ring with a shotgun blast' again following the mass shooting in Las Vegas, which left 58 dead.*

● ***Bring Me The Horizon*'s *Oli Sykes* and *Jordan Fish*** *climbed Kilimanjaro to raise money for Friends Of PICU, a charity which supports critically ill children and cared for Jordan's son Eliot. To date, the pair have raised £70,798. Hats off, chaps.*

● ***Queens of the Stone Age*'s *Josh Homme*** *made an appearance on CBBC to read a children's bedtime story. The father-of-three read Julia Donaldson's Zog, a story about a dragon. And you know what? It was quite lovely.*

THEY SAID *WHAT?*

"WE WROTE 80 SONGS. THE FIRST 50 WERE GOD-AWFUL..."

MARMOZETS' *JACK BOTTOMLEY* ON THE ART OF SELF-EDITING

James Hetfield auditions for a part on Broadway like Brendon back in April

PAUL HARRIES

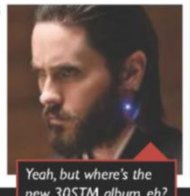
PAUL HARRIES

Alter Bridge, seconds before the cellists started crowd-surfing

revealed that during her teens, she was into Nirvana and dyed her hair blue. "My wardrobe consisted of ripped corduroy jeans and flannel shirts," she explained, before posting pics of her Crass vinyl on Instagram (the last bit was made up). **IRON MAIDEN** frontman **BRUCE DICKINSON** released his much-anticipated memoir **WHAT DOES THIS BUTTON DO?**, which we read between binge-watching the second season of **STRANGER THINGS**. Without spoiling it for those who've yet to see it – two questions: how and why? – it seems that the denizens of the Upside Down haven't quite finished messing with the people of Hawkins. Just watch it and we can talk about the ending, right?

Hollywood began to crumble as producer **HARVEY WEINSTEIN**, actor **KEVIN SPACEY** and many more high profile celebrities were accused of sexual assault, with the **#METOO** hashtag becoming a movement as people shared their experiences of sexual abuse and publicly denounced their perpetrators through social media.

Finally, metal mourned the loss of **MARTIN AIN**, bassist with pioneering Swiss metal bands **CELTIC FROST** and **HELLHAMMER**, who died of a heart attack on October 21, aged 50. "Every minute spent in Martin's company was a privilege," wrote his bandmate and friend **TOM GABRIEL FISCHER**. "Martin, I will miss you deeply until my days, too, will come to an end."



Yeah, but where's the new 30STM album, eh?

I REMEMBER...

MYLES KENNEDY REFLECTS ON ASKING FOR A FULL ORCHESTRA ON HIS RIDER AT THE ROYAL ALBERT HALL...

"Playing at the Royal Albert Hall with an orchestra was unbelievable. It was a huge, huge thing to do, and leading up to it, there was a lot of planning involved, obviously, with figuring out what songs to play and how they'd work with the orchestra. But we didn't end up rehearsing with them until just before the shows! As soon as we started playing, though, it felt like everything was perfect and totally in place. Did it feel strange onstage? A little, because there's so many more people than usual who have to be locked in, but it was also an amazing feeling."

Mark Hoppus was one person who 'couldn't wait for the summer and the Warped Tour' – but the travelling festival announced its end in November

LISA JOHNSON

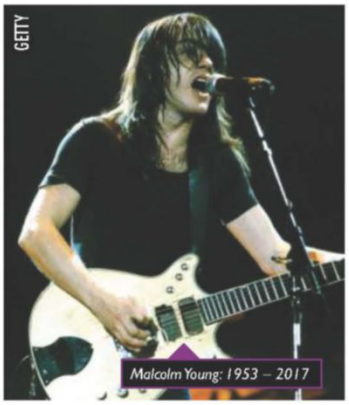
I REMEMBER...

GUITAR-WHIZZ JUSTIN HAWKINS SALUTES AC/DC'S MALCOLM YOUNG

"Malcolm was, and still is, one of those guitar players that makes you turn off the other speaker so you can hear what he's up to. AC/DC's bass was always a lot quieter than it would be on other bands' records, because it really was all about Malcolm. It's the approach we've taken with a lot of our own music, but with Dan [Hawkins] as our Malcolm! Dan was really teary-eyed during the set on the night we got the news. The position of Malcolm isn't as simple as rhythm guitarist – he was the heart of the band. If you cut AC/DC, they would bleed Malcolm Young."

While viewers of **THE GREAT BRITISH BAKE OFF** had the final ruined after co-judge Prue Leith accidentally tweeted the winner – Sophie Faldo – hours ahead of the final show, fans of **WARPED TOUR** found themselves in a similar state of disbelief after it was announced that 2018 will mark the closing leg of the travelling tour. It's the end of an era.

"In 1995, I had already worked many years in the music business, including spending four summers on the Lollapalooza tour, and I thought, 'For one summer I would like to go out and put on my own show,' mixing music and action sports," said founder **KEVIN LYMAN**. "With the support of so many people, I have now spent the last 23 summers bringing that show to a city near you. We have brought that show to over 11 million people around the world and watched that same world change while doing so. I truly look forward to seeing as many of you as possible during this final cross country run, and getting to thank you for your support on this wild adventure."



GETTY

Malcolm Young: 1953 – 2017

It was with tremendous sadness that we also bid farewell to **AC/DC** founding member and legendary rhythm guitarist **MALCOLM YOUNG**, who passed away after suffering from dementia for several years. He was 64.

"As his brother it is hard to express in words what he has meant to me during my life, the bond we had was unique and very special," his brother **ANGUS YOUNG** wrote in a statement. "He leaves behind an enormous legacy that will live on forever. Malcolm, job well done."

Rapper **LIL PEEP** also passed away of a suspected drugs overdose, although details of the coroner's toxicology report were yet to emerge at the time of Kerrang! going to print. The New York musician, whose real name was Gustav Åhr, combined emo samples with hip-hop on his debut album, Come Over When You're Sober, Pt. 1. He was just 21.

November was also a time of happiness, though: we gave **EVERY TIME I DIE** their first-ever Kerrang! cover as they lay waste to the UK in support of their latest album, Low Teens. To celebrate, we spent 72 hours with the "elder statesmen" of hardcore to learn how they've survived the highs and lows of their two-decade career. Congratulations, lads, although if anyone deserves a round of applause, it was the **TWITTER** employee who used their last day to shut down **PRESIDENT TRUMP**'s account. The joy and palpable relief was felt for just 11 minutes before it was restored by some very panicked jobsworths.

THEY SAID *WHAT?*

"I'VE DONE SO MUCH DUMB SHIT. LIKE, 'LOOK AT THAT PILE, THAT'S A LOT OF DUMB SHIT'"

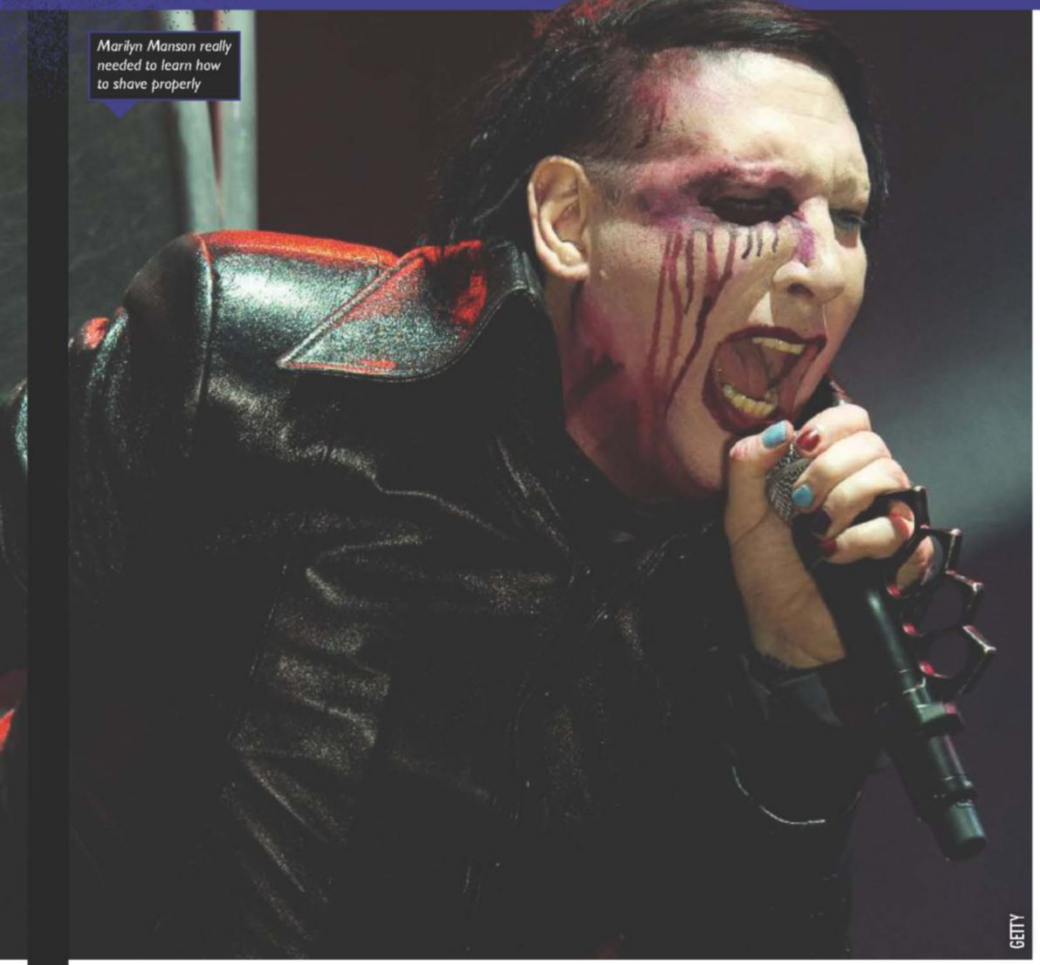
QOTSA'S *JOSH HOMME* ASSESSES A LIFE OF HORSING AROUND

NOVEMBER

HEARTBREAKING FAREWELLS RUINED AN ENTIRE MONTH. SERIOUSLY, 2017 WAS A RIGHT DICK A LOT OF THE TIME

DECEMBER

MANSON, HIM AND GLASSJAW GOT US FEELING FESTIVE, AS WE PREPARE TO SPEND CRIMBO IN A GALAXY FAR, FAR AWAY...



Marilyn Manson really needed to learn how to shave properly

GETTY

And so to December, the month of the year where there's a palpable sense of stress in the high street, and a time when turkeys, geese and nut roasts feel a nagging sense that **CHRISTMAS DAY** will not be a happy affair. But the rock does not stop for commerce or the slaying of birds. Thus, despite breaking his foot when that big gun fell on him during a New York gig in late September, **MARILYN MANSON** returned to the UK his first shows on our shores in two years. The God of Fuck took a leaf out of Dave Grohl and Axl Rose's book and performed in a chair, wearing a medical boot that, sadly, hadn't been tricked out with evil-looking stuff. It was just a massive shoe that provided extra bone support and protection. Still, great shows.

In other men-wearing-black gig news, Finnish love-metallers **HIM** began their final trek around Europe, playing their last-ever shows as part of their Bang & Whimper Tour. Reports from the gigs that have already happened are that it's a tearful thing. Expect tons of smeared eyeliner when Ville Valo stubs out his last fag on British soil on December 19. Why, Ville? *Why*?!

Comebacks now. December is often a fallow time for new releases, but **ASKING ALEXANDRIA** got ready to unleash their fifth album, sneaking into the 2017 release list a with mere weeks to spare, the punctual bastards. The self-titled release marks the return of vocalist **DANNY WORSNOP**, who rejoined the band last year. Now, don't screw it up, lads!

NEW FOUND GLORY also returned this month, with a brand-new song called **20 YEARS FROM NOW**, which was a nod to bouncing on stages all over the world for two decades and looking to the future. "We have learned so many lessons over the 20 years of this band, but the underlining meaning of the song is about letting go of worry to feel true freedom," said guitarist **CHAD GILBERT**. "All you truly need to worry about is waking up each day and to try to be the best version of yourself. We feel very lucky that when we wake up, we still get to be in this band." Awww...

After literally what felt like a 15-year wait, **GLASSJAW**'s attempts to surprise their fans with the release of their third album **MATERIAL CONTROL** were scuppered after the tracklisting and album artwork were leaked early by Amazon. We helped them drown their disappointment by putting them on a special, limited-edition variant cover of our December 6 issue. Who were they sharing front page space with? Why, it was our awesome **KERRANG! TOUR** headliners **THE AMITY AFFLICTION**, who we're thrilled to have had at the top of our travelling circus, alongside the equally awesome **BOSTON MANOR**, **CASEY** and **VUKOVI**.

And, of course, there's the biggest event in December coming up as well, that thing that's by-now tradition: the release of the new **STAR WARS** movie.

So that was the year that was. It's been up, it's been down, it's had its delightful moments, and some bits of it have been really weird. Here's to 2018, and whatever it holds!

THEY SAID *WHAT?*

"WE HAVE A RIDICULOUS NAME – EVERY GOOD ONE WAS TAKEN!"

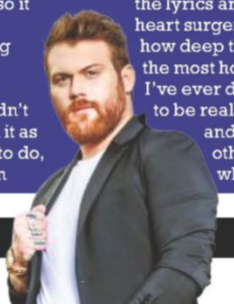
ZOLTAN BATHORY EXPLAINS THE ORIGINS OF FIVE FINGER DEATH PUNCH'S MONIKER

Ville Valo: bye, mate!

I REMEMBER...

DANNY WORSNOP'S BACK ON THE NEW ASKING ALEXANDRIA ALBUM. EXPLAIN ALL, PLEASE!

"Coming back to the band felt like a huge weight off my shoulders. We're different people to who we were three years ago, so it was almost like meeting strangers again. I actually hadn't considered it as something to do, but it's been really good to have our problems behind us, as water under the bridge, and be able to start anew. The album is very honest, I've said the lyrics are open-heart surgery, and that's how deep they go. It's the most honest thing I've ever done. It had to be really great and special, otherwise why bother?"



THE ALBUMS OF 2017

FROM POP-PUNK TO BLACK METAL, 2017 GAVE US A TON OF KILLER ALBUMS. IT WASN'T EASY, BUT WE'VE BOILED IT DOWN TO THE 50 MOST ESSENTIAL, AND CROWNED ONE OUR ALBUM OF THE YEAR...

50

ROYAL THUNDER
WICK

THERE'S AN esoteric magnetism wired deep inside Royal Thunder's third full-length that sucks you into the very eye of their storm. With its dark, moody atmospherics, warm fuzzy guitars and soul-baring vocals, the Atlanta psych-rockers have never sounded so sublime, disguising infectious rock songs as mind-melting meditative trances. (*AS*)

49

STRAY FROM THE PATH
ONLY DEATH IS REAL

RAMPANT NEO-NAZISM. Socio-political turmoil. Donald fucking Trump. For better or worse, 2017's uncertain world proved the ideal hotbed for SFTP's rabid political metalcore. The Long Island veterans certainly stepped up to the challenge, unleashing an eighth album overflowing with the vitriol our times demand. From the titanic riffage of Let's Make A Deal to the pit-stoking attitude running through Strange Fiction (featuring a cameo from Every Time I Die's Keith Buckley), this is uncompromising, incendiary stuff. (*SL*)

48

ALL TIME LOW
LAST YOUNG RENEGADE

"IT FEELS like the right time to put something forward that's a little different," Alex Gaskarth told K! ahead of Last Young Renegade's release. Though there was some shiny, three-chord pop-punk, the album also found Baltimore's finest playing with electronic sounds and more ambitious songwriting. "Mature" was how they described it to us. They were not wrong. (*NR*)

47

GRAVE PLEASURES
MOTHERBLOOD

LA PETITE mort – literally 'the little death' in French – is a euphemism for an orgasm, but could just as easily describe the sound of the Helsinki post-punks' second album. Motherblood took the gothic romanticism of The Cure and the wired rattle of Dead Kennedys to a place where sex, death and atomic bombs are forever entwined. (*JM*)

46

ANDY FORD

YOU ME AT SIX
NIGHT PEOPLE

YOU ME At Six were already one of Britain's beefiest prospects at the turn of 2017. It's testament to the Surrey rockers' unquenchable thirst for grandeur that this outsized fifth LP arrived with eyes pointed upwards: its laser-sights set past arenas, all the way to stadia. That's not to say there's anything sugarcoated or overly-mainstreamed about Night People. It was marinated, through its recording, in the country culture of Nashville, Tennessee and plumbed a gloomier, grittier vein than before. Plus, Josh Franceschi's brooding rockstar credentials had never-before been so nailed-on, and his band hadn't come across more ready to cut a swathe across the world's grandest stages. (*SL*)

THE STARS SPEAK!

JOSH FRANCESCHI
(VOCALS)

NIGHT PEOPLE CAME OUT IN JANUARY. HOW DO YOU VIEW IT NOW?
"I feel like every band has a record that they that have to make in a particular time and place, whether it ends up becoming their masterpiece or not. I don't believe Night People is that by a long shot, but it's a record that's given us growth for the next one, and the one after that."

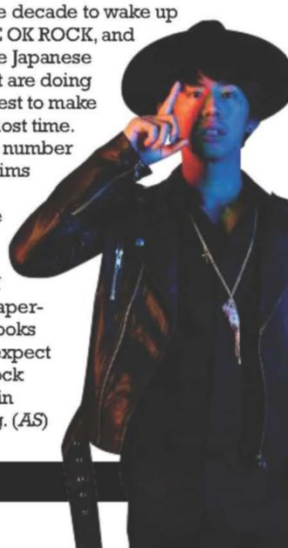
DO YOU FEEL ANY PRESSURE GOING INTO THE NEXT ALBUM?
"We're making a new record that's more about allowing creativity without any restrictions. For me, any opportunity to create music with these four other lads is a powerful thing, because you never know when that's going to end."

WHAT EXPERIENCES HAVE YOU TAKEN FROM NIGHT PEOPLE?
"We've played some incredible shows all over the world, and that is what the foundation has been for the new record. I look at it as an important, pivotal, stick or twist moment for the band."

45

ONE OK ROCK
AMBITIONS

IT TOOK the world almost a whole decade to wake up to ONE OK ROCK, and now the Japanese quartet are doing their best to make up for lost time. Album number eight aims high, replete with the kind of skyscraper-high hooks you'd expect from rock giants in waiting. (*AS*)



44

PARAMORE
AFTER LAUGHTER

FIVE ALBUMS in, Paramore evidently felt they needed new worlds to conquer. This breezy about-turn into funky pop was an audacious escape capsule from their alternative roots. Despite grumblings from the more diehard sections of their fanbase, the band sounds audibly energised, with the joyous nature of this brave record proving infectious. (*OT*)

43

THY ART IS MURDER
DEAR DESOLATION

WITH VOCALIST CJ McMahon's return to the fold after his much-publicised personal troubles, the Sydney deathcore merchants sounded completely revitalised across the blood-soaked fibres of this ferocious fourth album. All 10 tracks lock cold, deathly grips around listeners' throats as the five-piece unleash blastbeats, breakdowns and apocalyptic riff storms. (*DM*)

42

MANCHESTER ORCHESTRA
A BLACK MILE TO THE SURFACE

'THIS IS temporary, I just heard I'm gonna be a dad,' is a subtle line, but it's the pivotal crisis in a record caught between God and neutrinos, birth and decay. Manchester Orchestra's fifth LP proved not only their most expansive, painted in electronic textures and burnished acoustics, but also their most gracefully cathartic offering. (*JM*)

41

LINKIN PARK
ONE MORE LIGHT

IT ALMOST feels as if Linkin Park released two versions of One More Light. There was, briefly, the version that came out on May 19, an album that coalesced the band's diverse musical tastes. It sparked controversy, all of which was rendered irrelevant when frontman Chester Bennington made the heartbreaking decision to take his own life just two months later. Suddenly, pointedly, One More Light looked like a totally different album. The music's lighter touch now seemed a mere backdrop to Chester singing lyrics like, *'I'm dancing with my demons; I'm hanging off the edge.'* (*SB*)

40

HO99O9
UNITED STATES OF HORROR

PROPHETS OF Rage may have the revolutionary pedigree, but sonic anarchists Ho99o9 are definite contenders for 2017's most rebellious outfit. Case in point: their debut, combined blustering rap, revolting industrial grooves and furious hardcore into an unpredictable whole, holding up two middle fingers to spray-tanned presidents and genre boundaries alike. It *should* be as messy as eating spaghetti with chopsticks. Instead it's glued together by the chemistry between partners-in-crime theOGM and Eaddy – chemistry that's as explosive as a smashed Molotov cocktail. (*JM*)

ANDY FORD

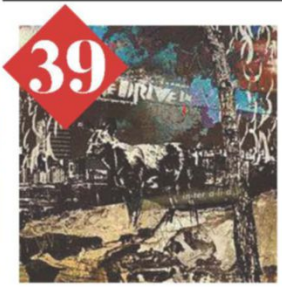
THE STARS SPEAK!
THEOGM AND YETI BONES (EADDY)
(VOCALS)

ARE YOU HAPPY TO HAVE SUCH AN ANGRY ALBUM RECEIVE THE RECOGNITION IT HAS?
THEOGM: "It feels like we have more work to do."
YETI BONES: "It burns – this album was made in hell, and it will stay in hell."

WHAT WERE YOUR GOALS WITH IT?
THEOGM: "Be bold, unapologetic, fierce, loved and hated."
YETI BONES: "Stay gold, feared, worshipped, loved and hated."

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE IT?
THEOGM: "I would say just listen to it, feel it, hear it, breathe it. Some things don't need to be described."
YETI BONES: "Apocalypse!"

39



AT THE DRIVE IN
IN•TER A•LI•A

STRANGE POETRY, musical tightrope walking, and frenetic punk rock thrills. This belated follow-up to the El Paso heroes' seminal Relationship Of Command revelled in the elements that made At The Drive In so captivating first time round. In re-bottling the lightning, they've made a breathtaking return. (*OT*)

38

STONE SOUR
HYDROGRAD

THE TITLE of this sixth album came from Corey Taylor misreading a sign in an airport. There was no mistaking the intent of the resulting record, though. With Slipknot taking time out, and Stone Sour having previously released two covers EPs, Hydrograd was the sound of a band happily back in business. (*AS*)

37

PAPA ROACH
CROOKED TEETH

THE KEY to a long life in music is to constantly move on, but ensuring you give your fans a ride in the process. Papa Roach are bigger and better today than in their supposed late-'90s heyday, and it's due to clever, turbulent albums like this that incorporate ever-changing styles, penetrating lyrics and fearsome hooks. (*SB*)

36

OHHMS
THE FOOL

ON ONE level, OHHMS' debut LP is just another brilliant slab of British doom: Daniel Sargent and Marc George's thumping riffage, Max Newton and Chainy Rabbit's treacly rhythm-section, and Paul Waller's abyssal vocals. Dig deeper, though, and there's a well of avant-garde inspiration begging listeners to fall into it and explore. (*SL*)

35 MYRKUR
MARERIDT

■ HORROR AND beauty, turmoil and peace; Mareridt was a work of contrasts. While 2015's M debut set Myrkur up as the queen of black metal, this follow-up delved further into the haunting folk and gothic mood of Amalie Brunn's native Denmark. Inspired, in part, by Amalie documenting the nightmares she was suffering, this was a creepy, powerful return. (*PT*)

34 KNUCKLE PUCK
SHAPESHIFTER

■ YOU EVER hear of 'the difficult second album'? Knuckle Puck have. It took them two goes in two studios to get the follow-up to 2015's Copacetic how they wanted it, and the result was a noticeably less breezy take on pop-punk than its predecessor. But whatever doubts they had in the studio, what Knuckle Puck got here was far superior to what came before. (*JM*)

33 WHILE SHE SLEEPS
YOU ARE WE

■ ALBUM NUMBER three was a make-or-break moment for Sheffield metalcore masters While She Sleeps. After 2015's underappreciated second album, Brainwashed, the band stepped outside the label-dominated system and entrusted their future – via PledgeMusic – to a dogged fanbase. Thankfully, logistical innovation was mirrored by artistic achievement. (*SL*)

32 ASKING ALEXANDRIA
ASKING ALEXANDRIA

■ WITH THE reinstatement of Danny Worsnop, AA 3.0 (or 1.0 again) chose to take a bold leap forward. Their eponymous sixth album featured bubbling electronics, acoustic gentility and even blustering hip-hop. Did that make for a softer AA? Hell no! If anything, the rewired metallers displayed a sharper focus, with Danny on incendiary form. (*JM*)

30 LOWER THAN ATLANTIS
SAFE IN SOUND

■ MANY GREAT things can be said of the 10 songs that made up LTA's fifth album. Each was perfectly polished and carefully constructed, but more impressive was the intelligence at the heart of the noise, as the Watford quartet chopped and changed genres without distracting from the earworm melodies that fuelled arena-worthy bangers like Had Enough. Safe. (*AS*)

29 ELECTRIC WIZARD
WIZARD BLOODY WIZARD

■ THE IDEA of Electric Wizard making an album that isn't grotesquely heavy is, frankly, laughable. Wizard Bloody Wizard was, however, a different kind of heavy. Acid rock, proto-metal and the sleazy garage churn of The Stooges replaced total doom, but despite the different approach, the results remained the same: blown minds everywhere. (*OT*)

28 POWER TRIP
NIGHTMARE LOGIC

■ TEXAN THRASHERS Power Trip delivered big on this second full-length, going hard and fast like it's 1986 all over again. Eschewing the schlocky, gimmicky trappings favoured by other modern interpretations of the genre, Nightmare Logic read like a guts-spilled love letter to thrash, right down to the album's lovingly hand-drawn, war-themed artwork. (*DM*)

27 GLASSJAW
MATERIAL CONTROL

■ MATERIAL CONTROL marks post-hardcore heroes Glassjaw's first new music in six years, and their first album in *15*. Other ventures may have proved distractions for Daryl Palumbo and Justin Beck, but their surprise-released third album found their chemistry intact. Spanning shivering ambience (Strange Hours) and '90s rock nirvana (My Conscience Ways A Ton), Material Control consolidated Glassjaw's status as an essential force. (*JM*)

31 ARCANE ROOTS
MELANCHOLIA HYMNS

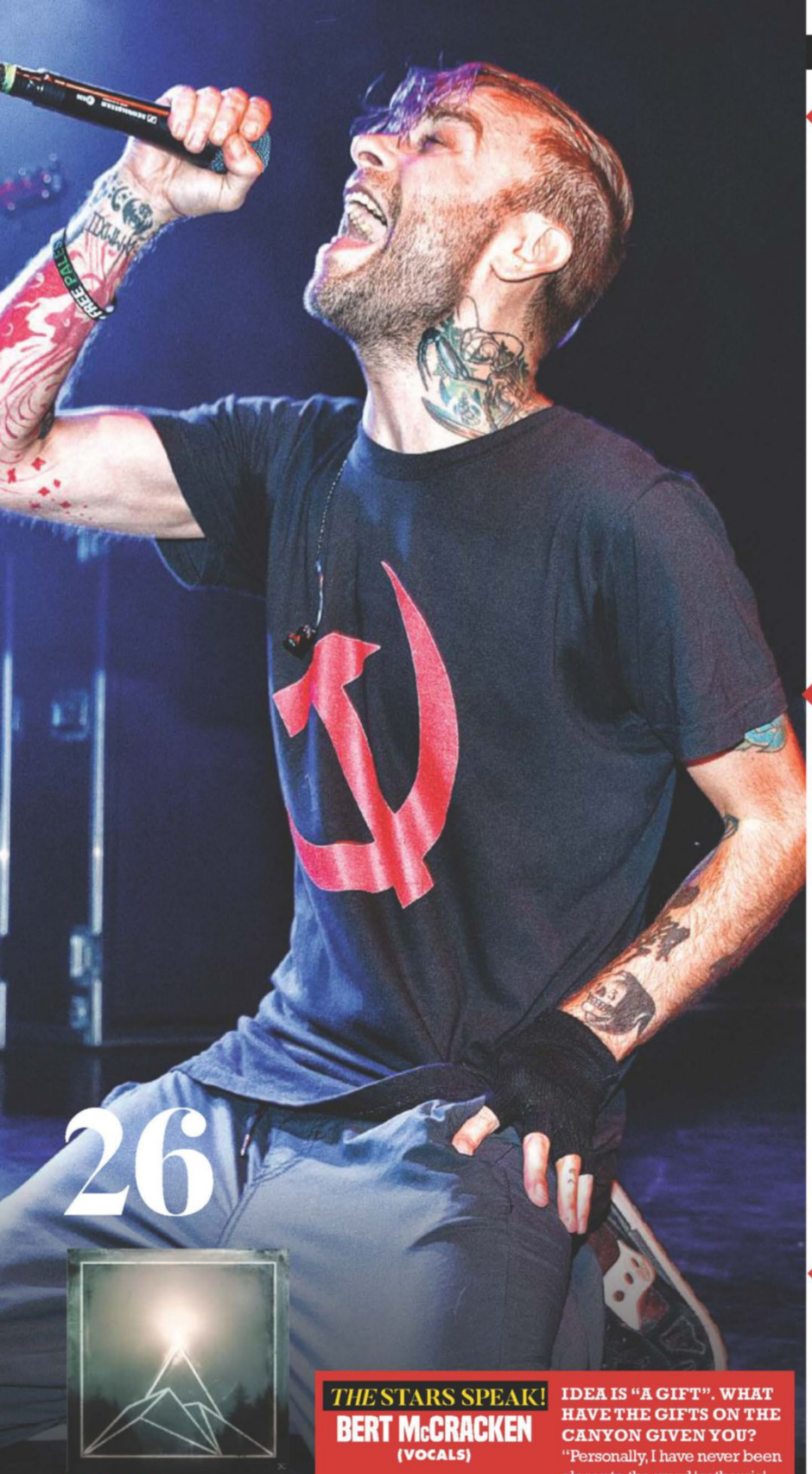
■ YOU'D NEED to have the compound eyes of a fly to have greater vision than Brit alt.rockers Arcane Roots. Their second full-length album recognised no borders – it stepped effortlessly from ambient to heavy and from harsh to beautiful. You needed time to let this multi-faceted album work its magic – for example, the majesty of Indigo opens its wings slowly, but when it finally does, it takes flight in epic fashion. Melancholia Hymns proved Arcane Roots as one of British rock's curious proponents, and well worth treasuring. (*SB*)

THE STARS SPEAK!
ANDREW GROVES
(VOCALS/GUITAR)

CONGRATS, ANDREW: MELANCHOLIA HYMNS IS ONE OF KERRANG!'S ALBUMS OF 2017!
"We're honoured! We set out to take risks, and to do something that was focused on the greatest and most musical work we could achieve. At a time when honesty, focus and taking risks feel seemingly worthless, we couldn't be happier with the response."

WHICH ALBUMS INSPIRED YOU?
"We're lucky to live in a time where there are so many incredible artists just within the reach of our fingertips at any one time. Björk's Vulnicura, Efterkang's Piramida, Trentemøller's The Last Resort, Nils Frahm's Spaces, Matt Robertson's In Echelon and Feist's Metals were all big influences on us during the recording."

WHAT POSITIVE EFFECT DID THE DIFFICULT PROCESS OF MAKING THE ALBUM HAVE?
"I don't think we've ever felt that anything worth doing should be easy. We had a very steep learning curve trying to make this record not feel contrived in any way, and even then we only truly reached the point we desired in the last few days of recording. Ever since, we've been itching to continue working on new music with the new abilities we felt we've earned along the way."



26

THE USED
THE CANYON

■ IN ADDRESSING the suicide of a close friend – and much more besides – Bert McCracken plumbed traumatic depths on The Used's most challenging work to date. Grief, regret and forgiveness all played a part and, like the titular canyon, the record's deep ravines held truths that take time to fathom, but are well worth the trip. (*JM*)

THE STARS SPEAK!
BERT McCRACKEN
(VOCALS)

THE CANYON LEFT ITS MARK ON US, BUT HOW WAS THE RECEPTION FROM FANS, BERT?
"The reception for the new record has been incredible. What stands out about The Used's fans is that they're a different kind of music listener. For us, making music is church or therapy, so it feels amazing to bring that together."

YOU'VE DESCRIBED REALISING THAT AN IDEA IS "A GIFT". WHAT HAVE THE GIFTS ON THE CANYON GIVEN YOU?
"Personally, I have never been closer to the word 'catharsis' and what it actually means. Dealing with a death in this way, being able to write about it so openly, has been very healing for me."

WAS THE PROCESS OF WORKING WITH PRODUCER ROSS ROBINSON SOMETHING YOU'D REPEAT?
"We love Ross! He's the best, and we cannot wait to work with him again soon!"

25

DEAF HAVANA
ALL THESE COUNTLESS NIGHTS

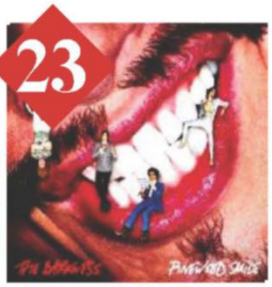
■ BLESSED WITH one of those voices that could make even a nursery rhyme sound emotional, James Veck-Gilodi was backed here by some equally heartfelt songwriting. Deaf Havana's first album in four years was clearly the product of troubled times and much soul-searching. But from difficult situations can come great art, and also in this case, Top 5 album success. (*SB*)

24

PROPHETS OF RAGE
PROPHETS OF RAGE

■ HERE TO '*unfuck the world*', PoR defied convention by being a supergroup that lived up to their billing, and this debut served as a thunderbolt of noise in response to these times of social unrest. But even if you ignored the politics, their potent formula of Chuck D and B-Real's rap attack, plus three quarters of Rage Against The Machine, was electrifying. (*AS*)

23



THE DARKNESS
PINEWOOD SMILE

■ WITH TONGUES lodged firmly in cheek, and everything else crammed into tight spandex, The Darkness returned in silly but undeniably great form. Arguably worth it for the hilariously angry Southern Trains alone, Pinewood Smile packs some of the year's funniest – and finest – rock anthems. (*SB*)

22

NOTHING BUT THIEVES
BROKEN MACHINE

■ FRONTMAN CONOR Mason is a one-off, and the poise with which his vocals straddled the Essex rockers' bombast on their self-titled 2015 debut seemed hard to replicate. Broken Machine, however, did just that – and then some. It showed an epic realisation of untapped potential through an omnivorous, but never obvious, blending of styles. (*SL*)

21

QUEENS OF THE STONE AGE
VILLAINS

■ IF QOTSA's last album, 2013's …Like Clockwork, proved they were still capable of the brilliance of their first three efforts, this successor relished in exhibiting a band with plenty of good days ahead. Signing up mainstream super-producer Mark Ronson could be one of Josh Homme's most punk moves yet, and it's clearly paid off. (*AS*)

20 ROYAL BLOOD

HOW DID WE GET SO DARK?

JUNE 23 was the day Royal Blood won 2017. About to take to Glastonbury's Pyramid Stage, the Brighton duo learnt that this second album had smashed its way to the top of the UK charts. And as expected, their swagger-tastic set rubber-stamped them as the country's biggest new(ish) rock band. This status was only possible thanks to the way How Did We Get So Dark? took its self-titled predecessor's slinky, low-slung grooves and bolstered them with the confidence and power its creators had since accumulated. (*OT*)

19 THE BRONX

THE BRONX

SOMETHINGS you can just depend on: the sun rises in the east, ice cream melts, The Bronx deliver raging records called The Bronx. Yet with Matt Caughthran bellowing '*Fake news! Alt facts!*' over incendiary punk, their rage sounded like a matter of life and death. In fact, their outrage sounds more necessary now than ever. (*JM*)

18 CHELSEA WOLFE

HISS SPUN

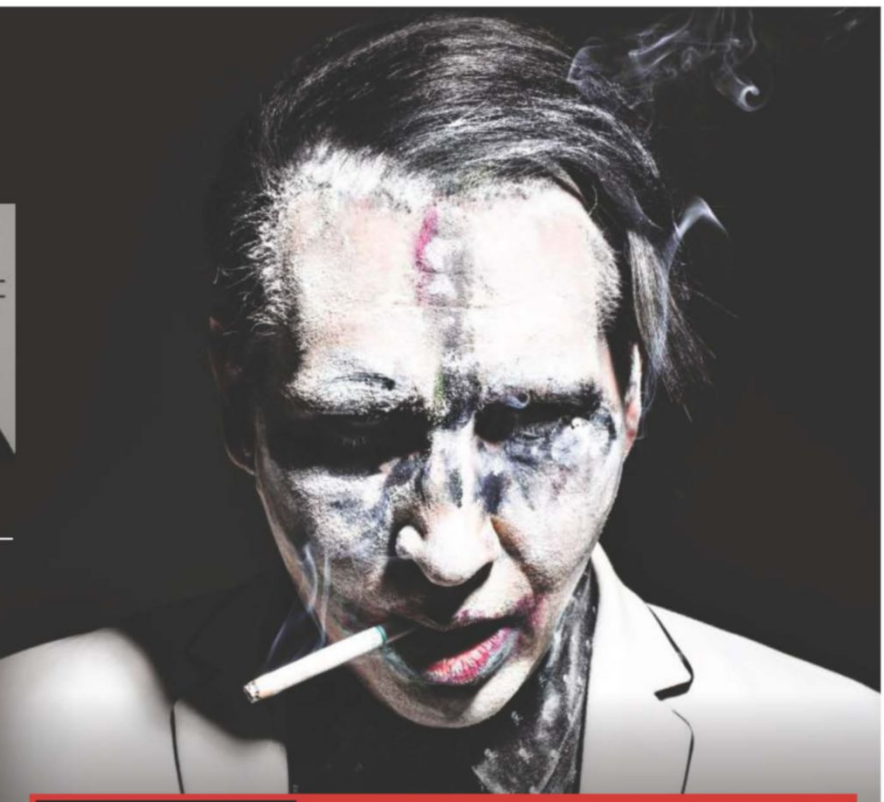
MEMBERS OF Converge, OOTSA and Isis (the band) were involved, but Chelsea Wolfe is already creating music to match most underground luminaries. As emotionally wrenching as it was musically mesmerising, Hiss Spun expressed mental torment through a medium of vicious, experimental metal. Beautifully intense. (*PT*)

17

MARILYN MANSON

HEAVEN UPSIDE DOWN

WITH ITS spidery verses and venomous, whisper-to-a-scream hooks, Heaven Upside Down was precisely the kind of evil, slithering creature we hoped Marilyn Manson would return with. We'd had glimpses of it on recent albums, but this year's creative and alternative take on industrial metal was the real deal. Supported, as ever, by some mesmerising and entirely NSFW videos, Manson got into your head with songs about paranoia, sex and religion. SAY10 lurched violently, while the dark electro rock of KILL4ME bobbed along, loose-limbed and enticing. Then there were odd tracks like Saturnalia, which sounded like a classic Alice Cooper song reanimated for a new generation. The God of Fuck kept everything unpredictable, provoking further listens. Once considered a genuine threat to American society, it was awesome to have old Mazza back in such insidious, devilish form. (*SB*)



THE STARS SPEAK!

MARILYN MANSON

(VOCALS)

DOES HAVING CRITICAL ACCLAIM STILL MEAN SOMETHING TO YOU?

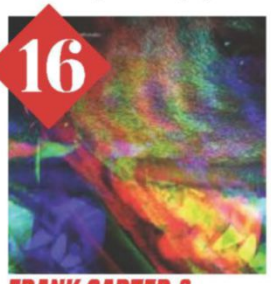
"It does coming from Kerrang!. I have all my Kerrang! Awards on my shelf, though my father had a couple, too, which left me with three Ks, which could look inappropriate to some people. The great thing about Kerrang! is that it's written for genuine rock fans, and the writers are genuine rock fans, so it's nice to be recognised. It's not just because it's new, but Heaven Upside Down is my favourite record, alongside The Pale Emperor [2015]. I feel it's very direct, but there's also a lot of binaural and alchemical elements in there to absorb."

IS THERE ANYTHING YOU DID DIFFERENTLY ON THIS RECORD?

"Working with Tyler [Bates, producer/multi-instrumentalist]. We sit about six-feet apart, close enough to touch, with his guitar and amp right there, and me holding the mic, and it's a very intimate process. We'll tap out a simple tempo, I'll have a music stand with my notebooks of lyrics, and we'll just get into it. You get to set your soul free when you're making a record."

WHO DO YOU TRUST TO TELL YOU IF WHAT YOU HAVE IS SPECIAL?

"I have a close circle of friends that I trust to give me an honest opinion. I also have a good instinct for knowing when someone is lying to me. But ultimately, you have to trust yourself more than anyone. When making music, emotion comes before logic, but when it's done I can be logical and analytical about it. And to me, Heaven Upside Down is one of my greatest achievements."



16 FRANK CARTER & THE RATTLESNAKES

MODERN RUIN

ON ITS release, Frank Carter described Modern Ruin as: "The best record I've ever made." With his history, that's fighting talk. Not that fighting was the Watford Wolf's style here. While not entirely lacking in piss and vinegar, the album was notable for its open-hearted clarity, rather than bare-knuckled attitude. We still wouldn't want to be rude to his face, mind. (*OT*)

EPs OF THE YEAR

THINK OF EPS LIKE TINY ALBUMS WITH NOT AS MANY SONGS. AND THERE WERE SOME AWESOME ONES THIS YEAR…

1 NINE INCH NAILS
ADD VIOLENCE

The second EP of an apparent trilogy, following 2016's Not The Actual Events, Add Violence boasted classic Trent Reznor tropes (with Atticus Ross once again, officially in tow). Most prominently, there were huge earworms filled with disquieting atmosphere, clashing with moments of absolute beauty. It was a fascinating time-capsule glimpse into the world of one of our most enigmatic stars.

2 FRANK IERO AND THE PATIENCE
KEEP THE COFFINS COMING

Putting the tremendous difficulties of his band's 2016 bus collision well and truly behind him, Frank got it all out in the studio with this four-track banger. Ably accompanied by the sparse, raw recording techniques of famed engineer Steve Albini (you know, the guy who oversaw albums by Nirvana and Pixies) Keep The Coffins Coming was an exercise in attrition and catharsis, also handily providing the former MCR six-stringer with some brand-new live favourites. Welcome back, matey.

3 MILK TEETH
BE NICE

For their switch to Roadrunner, the Stroud quartet put their best foot forward on this four-track EP. Opener Owning Your Okayness immediately installed itself as the band's finest tune to date, with the more restrained, introspective build showcased on Hibernate also displaying a creative expansion only hitherto hinted at. Their next album is going to *rule*.

4 CURSED EARTH
CYCLES OF GRIEF VOLUME 1: GROWTH

Another brilliant addition to the Hardcore 2017 canon, Perth brutalists Cursed Earth here delivered an unflinching introduction. Grotesque yet intoxicating, this documented the nature of trauma and what it is to be human, all carried out with a fury and fire that put the world on notice that Jazmine Luders' crew are a bit special.

5 PIJN
FLOODLIT

Loosely falling somewhere between post-rock, doom and something much more esoteric, these mysterious Manchester newcomers floored all who encountered their lush, beatific lullabies. With two songs exceeding seven minutes, this captivating EP offered a glimpse into an exciting musical world that's at once terrifying and entrancing. And no, you don't pronounce their name 'pigeon'…

WORDS: DAVID MCLAUGHLIN

14 PALLBEARER
HEARTLESS

■ IF ARKANSAS heavyists Pallbearer were ever a straight-up doom band (and they weren't *really*), they definitely outgrew that limiting description on Heartless. There was still a funereal weight here, but it was mixed with more prominent prog sweeps and emotional ebbs and flows. The result was hypnotically, almost ludicrously good. (*PT*)

15 HIGHER POWER
SOUL STRUCTURE

■ EVEN AMONGST 2017's thriving hardcore fraternity, Higher Power seemed Heaven sent. Cast your eye along this list and you'll notice innovation in abundance amid the spin-kicks and circle-pits. Few, however, managed to do it with the sheer effortlessness shown on the Leeds quintet's smashing debut. Built on gritty NYHC foundations, we got shades of pure-punk energy, groove-metal swagger and alt. cool running from concussive banger Four Walls Black to Between Concrete And Sky's bruising expanse. A killer record that marked the arrival of a staggeringly vibrant new Britcore force. (*SL*)

13 AFI
THE BLOOD ALBUM

■ FEW BANDS pulse with such vigour 10 albums in as AFI did this year. As if tracing their own bloodline over 26 years, The Blood Album was a crystallisation of the goth-punk kings' strengths, presented in a flawless package. Nerve-stricken punk, heart-pumping anthems and a healthy(ish) lyrical flirtation with mortality coagulated into 14 tracks that reasserted AFI as the masters of shadowy cool. It just would've been nice if they'd done more than a handful of UK gigs in support. Just saying… (*JM*)

12 CAN'T SWIM
FAIL YOU AGAIN

■ PICKING UP the acerbic emo trail opened by last year's Death Deserves A Name EP, Fail You Again saw New Jersey punks Can't Swim reaching their potential. And the depth of emotion on display – worldly resentment boiling over into hellish self-loathing – bound this album of rough edges into a brilliant, impactful whole. (*SL*)

11 CREEPER
ETERNITY, IN YOUR ARMS

■ HAVING REELED us in with a series of EPs and frantic live shows, nothing save a studio full of garlic and crosses was going to stop Creeper making a great debut. There's a touch of frost in the thunderous Suzanne and impressively-layered opener Black Rain, but it was the warmth of Will Gould's emotion that helped make Creeper one of the hottest bands of 2017. (*SB*)

10

PVRIS
ALL WE KNOW OF HEAVEN, ALL WE NEED OF HELL

WRITING A critically-acclaimed debut album is all well and good, until you have to follow it up with something even better. Just ask Lynn Gunn, who found herself alienated and disconnected from her true self after three years of non-stop touring and back-breaking work. The second PVRIS full-length didn't disappoint, using heavy synths and twisted electronica to shine a light into the darkest of corners. It was less playful than their White Noise debut, but no less addictive. As Lynn put it herself to K! earlier in the year, "It has the same heart and soul, it's just got new clothes on." (*AS*)

9

THE MENZINGERS
AFTER THE PARTY

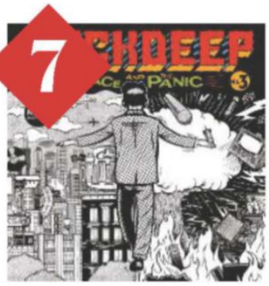
THE MENZINGERS have long documented their lives with heart-on-sleeve zeal. Yet After The Party is the point where they best managed to get the personal and the universal to connect. Like a coming-of-age novel, their fifth album looks back on life in a band, and by telling their own story, they frequently told that of their fans, too. (*JM*)

8

RISE AGAINST
WOLVES

PLENTY OF bands responded to our troubled times with passion and defiance in 2017. Of them all, it was Rise Against's dissent that hit hardest. Whether it's the unstoppable drive of The Violence, the skanking wake-up call of Bullshit or the protest anthem Wolves, this was the sound of a band refusing to back down. (*OT*)

7



NECK DEEP
THE PEACE AND THE PANIC

IF LIFE'S Not Out To Get You was Neck Deep's shot at the title, this was the knockout blow. And at the heart of this record's appeal is, well, its heart, especially on 19 Seventy Sumthin', where Ben Barlow chronicled the relationship of his parents, from first dance to last rites after his father Terry's passing last year. Mature, deep and brilliant, this was a proud victory. (*JM*)

6

FOO FIGHTERS
CONCRETE AND GOLD

AFTER 2014's exhaustive Sonic Highways album and TV series, Dave Grohl needed a rest. Foos took a little holiday. But when they returned, the results were spectacular, full of inventive arrangements (Run) and atmosphere (The Sky Is A Neighborhood). La Dee Da, meanwhile, is among the most propulsive things recorded by the band in years. Welcome back, gentlemen. (*SB*)

5

CONVERGE
THE DUSK IN US

AS AUTUMN made way for winter chill, it was time to hunker down with Converge for another long, dark night of the soul. This being one of modern hardcore's most legendary outfits, however, there was no shortage of rage against the dying of the light here. Sixteen years on from their landmark Jane Doe album, the Massachusetts demolition crew have lost none of their destructive force, still capable of both dizzying precision and soul-aching emotion. There may have been an unprecedented five-year gap between releases, but approaching middle age has evidently done little to mellow this furious foursome. If anything, it's sharpened their focus, while providing new lyrical inspiration on tunes like the opening A Single Tear, a powerful message from parent to child. It was a fiery outpouring that illuminated the flickering twilight of an all-too-often dark year. (*OT*)

THE STARS SPEAK!
JACOB BANNON
(VOCALS)

HOW DOES IT FEEL TO MAKE MUSIC THAT'S STILL EMBRACED SO ENTHUSIASTICALLY, 27 YEARS AND NINE ALBUMS IN?

"We're always excited when we connect with people in some way. Our music is very emotionally-charged, so the fact that people take the time to experience it is appreciated."

A SINGLE TEAR IS A VERY MOVING SONG. IT APPEARS TO BE ABOUT BECOMING A PARENT…

"The song is about parenthood and the sense of purpose that it has the potential to instil. Parenthood hasn't really changed me as a writer – the only thing it's probably changed is that when I'm working and being creative, I'm hyper-focused. That's because when I go home, I try to shut everything down and be as present as I possibly can, as that's my responsibility and I owe it to my family."

WHAT DOES THE TITLE OF THE RECORD REPRESENT TO YOU?

"The title-track is about different things in an obtuse way, but if there's a theme to the title of that song it's about darkness and depression. It's not about the specifics that lead you to those things, but it's an open letter of sorts about trying to fight through, as the weight of true depression can feel like a mountain on top of you."

PHOTO: ANDREW LIPOVSKY

MASTODON
EMPEROR OF SAND

GREAT ART doesn't happen in a vacuum. Like 2009's magnificent Crack The Skye, Emperor Of Sand was, on the surface, a fantastical concept album. This one centred around an individual's attempt to outrun a death sentence handed down by a tyrannical desert sultan, but, as with Crack The Skye, it was a fable rooted in strong emotion and personal pain. It serves as an allegory for the cancer that blighted Mastodon's lives, taking guitarist Bill Kelliher's mother and afflicting bassist Troy Sanders' wife and drummer Brann Dailor's mother. This background gave the sweeping imagery a grounded emotional resonance, and the music was as weighty as the themes deserve. That didn't mean it had the heaviest riffs or screamiest screams Mastodon have ever mustered – it contained some of the most gorgeous, accessible hooks the band have ever written, in fact – but they were embedded into a wonderfully complex, multi-layered structure that was as eager to challenge the listener as to soothe or lead them by the hand. It was an album that worked on an emotional, intellectual and visceral level, and another masterpiece from a band who have always chosen their own path. (*PT*)

3

CODE ORANGE

CODE ORANGE
FOREVER

HARDCORE IS changing. It's being driven and distended from the inside out by a new breed of band: committed to the old ethic, but not beholden to its traditional aesthetic. On December 28 and 29, Code Orange will support The Dillinger Escape Plan at the mathcore legends' final gigs. In terms of passing the torch, those shows' meetings of the last and next generations' most ferociously creative firebrands promise to deliver for the ages. It's a position in which the steely Pittsburgh quintet landed themselves through unfettered experimentalism and caustic execution. While 2014's I Am King heralded the band's rabid arrival, Forever benchmarked their savage ascent. Easing us off the mark with the familiarly barbaric title-track, it quickly revealed itself as a record rammed with left-turns and rampant transformations. The Mud was bisected by ambience of a mid-song interlude Nine Inch Nails could be proud of, while The New Reality packed the blistering mania of Converge. Bleeding In The Blur's moody alt.rock sounds like Thrice at their abyssal best, and one of the skull-crushing highlights promised that No One Is Untouchable. True, and in 2017, Code Orange came pretty close to that. (*SL*)

THE STARS SPEAK!

JAMI MORGAN
(VOCALS, DRUMS)

DID YOU EXPECT A RECORD THAT'S THIS UNCOMPROMISING TO BE RECEIVED SO ENTHUSIASTICALLY?
"It feels right. You can't predict or rely on what people are going to respond to, but we are very happy with the response. I continue to believe that it's a record a lot of people that haven't even heard of us yet will find something in."

HOW SURREAL IS IT TO HAVE THE SONG FOREVER NOMINATED FOR A GRAMMY?
"It's definitely wild, but I feel if we want to achieve something, we can achieve it. So while 99 per cent of people are shocked, I am *not* shocked. You can't measure success on what other people think, but it's definitely a crazy accomplishment for us."

WHAT LESSONS HAVE YOU LEARNED FROM MAKING FOREVER?
"I've learned more than a few, and I gotta keep them in my pocket so as to apply them to our next releases. We continue to learn, we continue to build, – we continue to take it all!"

PHOTO: ANGELA OWENS

ENTER SHIKARI
THE SPARK

ENTER SHIKARI'S fifth studio album came at a time when life wasn't so good for frontman Rou Reynolds. However, rather than caving in to personal issues and the crumbling world around him, pandering to one downbeat news headline after the next, he instead chose to channel his energy and feelings of confusion, loss and depression into a bold, creative record that tapped deep into its creator's emotions and looked for the positives. A spirit of radiant defiance was laced throughout the St Albans quartet's latest offering, most evident on the build-up in the middle of Airfield, where Rou sings, '*Yeah you're down on your luck, you're down / But that don't mean you're out.*' It's hard not to believe him – the eccentric frontman and his bandmates stand today as the British rock heroes they are because of the passion driving everything at the heart of what they do. When it comes to addressing the world around them, Shikari's message has never been clearer, nowhere more than on Take My Country Back. Addressing the post-Brexit confusion that hung over 2017 like a cloud, and with words to inspire a place that offers fairness and equality for all, it neatly called for unity and positivity in the face of unpleasantness. And that sums up The Spark: from corrupt governments to mental health and social media, this was a band saying there *is* hope, and the positivity was infectious. (*AS*)

And this is what ETS looked like before we told them they were Number 1

PHOTO: ANDY FORD

1 EMPLOYED TO SERVE

THE WARMTH OF A DYING SUN

FROM HUMBLE beginnings, great things grow. At the start of 2017, Woking's Employed To Serve were already a name in British heavy music, thanks to their excellent 2015 debut Greyer Than You Remember, as well as impossibly wild live shows. But this was the year they broke out of the underground and, very loudly, made themselves heard with their second album. Not just heavier, sharper and more creative than their debut, The Warmth Of A Dying Sun easily outgunned everything else this year, a work of genuinely exciting, explosive brilliance.

Opening with the incendiary Void Ambition, there's nothing on the album that doesn't go straight for the jugular. That song is like Converge turning the anger up to 11, while the bass-heavy Good For Nothing could give Gojira pause for thought. Platform 89's snarling attack spills chaotically into moments of terrifying harsh noise, and I Spend My Days (Wishing Them Away) toys with an incredible tech-metal groove before avalanching to its own cataclysmic end. And when Employed To Serve unleashed them all at a powder-keg launch show at London's Old Blue Last in June, you could barely see band members for stage-divers. In fact, at points, they were the same thing. It broke the K-rating system, as we gave the show an unheard-of six-Ks.

ETS themselves will point out they're just part of a British underground revolution. While this is true, TWOADS underlined their status as leaders of the pack. (*SL*)

THE STARS SPEAK!

JUSTINE JONES

(VOCALS)

HOW DOES IT FEEL TO HAVE BEEN NAMED KERRANG!'S ALBUM OF 2017?

"It's very, *very* unexpected. When we heard, it completely blew our minds. We had to re-read the email quite a few times just to let the news properly sink in – I just remember doing an internal scream. I don't think it will fully sink in until we see this in print."

THE ALBUM MARKS QUITE A PROGRESSION OF YOUR SOUND. DID THAT FEEL LIKE A RISK?

"We definitely felt more invested in what we were doing. I think that confidence really flows through the album. Personally, I always think there is room for improvement, but I'm very happy with how that record turned out for that moment in time. We were very cutthroat in what we did and didn't put into the album. I like to think about that old Sum 41 album title, All Killer No Filler. That's something I want to take with me right through my life – no rubbish!"

"BEING NAMED ALBUM OF THE YEAR HAS BLOWN OUR MINDS!"
JUSTINE JONES

WHAT ARE YOUR FAVOURITE MEMORIES FROM RECORDING THE ALBUM?

"Getting to listen to one of the first mixes is a moment that really stands out. I remember I was on holiday in New York, and because of the time-difference it was, like, 5am when the notification came through. But I had to get up and listen to it there and then. We did a couple of revisions, and the final cut came through when we were on tour with [Canadian sludge metallers] Mare in Belgium. Everyone sat around in this little bunk room and it was like, 'Oh my God, it's a real thing!' And then getting the actual vinyl and CDs through after having seen all the drafts of the artwork, that seemed like such a big thing."

WAS THERE A POINT WHERE YOU REALISED YOU HAD SOMETHING SPECIAL ON YOUR HANDS WITH THE ALBUM?

"We were really excited in the studio, and proud of the work we'd done, but I don't think it really hit us until the album was out there and we started to see people's reactions to it. I think the key point was the album release show at the Old Blue Last. I had this horrible little meltdown on the way to the show, like, 'What happens if no-one shows up?!' Thankfully, the complete opposite happened – it was awesome!"

DO YOU SEE YOURSELVES AS LEADERS OF THE CURRENT WAVE OF BRITISH HEAVY MUSIC?

"I don't think of us as leaders, *per se*, but I do feel that we're part of a bigger grouping of bands all working in parallel. It's like this puddle [of talent] spreading out in all different directions. There are metal bands, but there are all other types, too, connected in the middle. There are grunge bands like Milk Teeth, and then different bands like Venom Prison and Black Peaks are all just smashing it. It's just so awesome seeing friends achieve what they've always dreamt of."

HEAD TO KERRANG.COM FOR MORE REVIEW OF THE YEAR GOODNESS, INCLUDING BAND PICKS, PLAYLISTS & LOADS MORE!

LIVES

RATINGS
KKKKK = CLASSIC
KKKK = EXCELLENT
KKK = GOOD
KK = AVERAGE
K = POOR

PVRIS

PLUS: COIN, TYNE

O2 BRIXTON ACADEMY, LONDON. 30.11.17

KKK

THE BIG TIME BECKONS, BUT THE MASSACHUSETTS TRIO ONLY TAKE TENTATIVE STEPS TOWARDS IT AT CAUTIOUS LONDON SHOW

WORDS: DAVID McLAUGHLIN **PHOTOS:** JENN FIVE

'PROTECT TRANS Youth' it says in black block capitals on the blue, pink and white-striped flag draped across the keyboard next to bassist Brian MacDonald. He and the rest of PVRIS are playing hard, locked deep into the groove, as vocalist Lynn Gunn is rendered almost inaudible beneath the volume of their devotees belting out, '*I don't belong to anyone else.*' It's a moment to make the hairs stand on end, and a quick scan of the faces around the sold-out O2 Academy Brixton suggests it's an important one that means the world to many. A few more of these and tonight might have truly ignited.

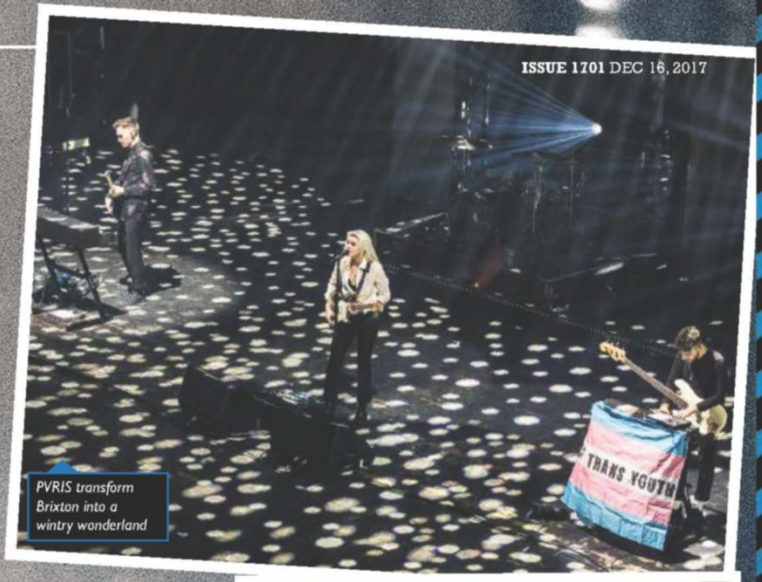
There's no real sparks to help in that regard from the early proceedings. You can't fault the efforts of the openers, though. Firstly, Tyne, AKA the solo vehicle for Cambridge chanteuse Grace Shelley, offers charming, super-chilled electro-pop, but collective impatience and short attention spans means she's largely left fighting against the din of the babbling masses.

Nashville indie-pop sorts COIN fare slightly better, but not loads. Though they're received politely enough, there's little about their amiable if unremarkable fodder that truly connects with a knockout blow. Foppish frontman Chase Lawrence does his best spidery moves, even throwing himself to the ground at the apex of it all, but rather than being a dramatic flourish, it merely leaves most wondering if he's alright.

It's an oddly timid vibe, then, that PVRIS enter into. The pulsing throb and vibration of a far-too-loud heartbeat signals their arrival and something about the band's own demeanour suggests nerves might be winning over initial exchanges. You can almost see it on Lynn's face, as she gamely stretches into the upper reaches on Heaven. The clubnight-gone-goth vibes of St. Patrick blow away most jitters shortly after, with huge sing-alongs on Smoke only outdone by the PVRIS singer's own impressive wails – a point of contention on previous visits to these shores. But she's in the finest voice this evening.

You can see that stress and worry visibly dissipate about midway through, as everyone seems to fittingly join as one on You And I. Lynn even allows herself a smile or two when it's clear things are going okay and everything will be alright.

The aforementioned momentum built by Anyone Else into regular set-closer My House almost pushes the gig into fifth gear, but a certain something's simply lacking. The flashy production bells and whistles don't help; overwhelmingly ill-fitting a band whose whole thing is atmosphere, message and mystique. Ultimately, there's a gap to be bridged yet if PVRIS are going to stride much larger stages and own them some day. Knowing that they've got through this, though, will go some way to overcoming the challenge, when such hurdles surely come along.



PVRIS transform Brixton into a wintry wonderland

Lynn: occasionally neglects her guitar duties

Lynn was taking no chances that a fan might grab the mic

STAR SHOUT!

LYNN GUNN

PVRIS, VOCALS/GUITAR/KEYBOARDS

HOW FULFILLING HAS IT BEEN TO UNDERTAKE THIS BIGGEST UK TOUR YET?
"It's been great! I've talked recently about how I've found myself navigating some tricky issues while out on tour. Over this past week, though, it seems that some stuff has changed, opened up and started to feel a little bit better. The last three nights in particular have been incredible, and it's great to end it at Brixton."

DO YOU STILL FEEL THAT THE UK RECEPTIONS FOR PVRIS' LIVE SHOWS ARE A CUT ABOVE?
"Absolutely. Our headline show in Manchester was our biggest-ever up to that point. Tonight has just surpassed it. I've really loved being here, being in a better headspace and being much more present in the shows with that ability to really just soak it all up. I think – and hope – that the audiences here do connect to us as much as I feel they do."

ASIDE FROM THAT RECEPTION, WHAT ELSE MAKES THE UK STAND APART?
"One of my favourite funny things about coming over to the UK is that people here really seem to love getting on each others' shoulders a lot more than they do in the U.S.. It's something that all of us in the band notice and really love to see!"

GOOD CHARLOTTE

PLUS: AGAINST THE CURRENT, MILK TEETH

O2 ACADEMY BRIXTON, LONDON.

03.12.17

KKKKK

MARYLAND'S OLDER BROTHERS OF POP-PUNK MAKE NEW MEMORIES AND BOP UNTIL BRIXTON DROPS

WORDS: JAMES MACKINNON **PHOTOS:** PAUL HARRIES

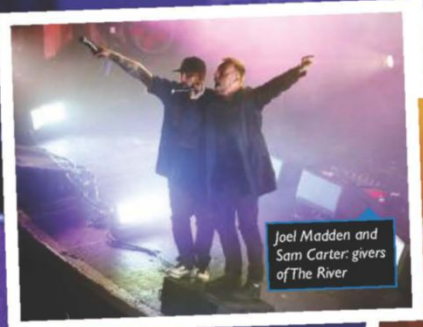
■ "SUP LONDON, how ya doing?" asks Joel Madden, with a nervous smile. He's currently 20-feet tall, sporting a red-tipped mohawk – oh, and he's 24 years old. Projected onto canvas are scenes of a younger Good Charlotte playing pivotal shows here touring The Young And The Hopeless. Fourteen years on, almost to the day, GC karaoke once again fills the air, so by the time Joel and Benji Madden barrel into The Anthem, this sold-out crowd are primed to go off like it's the Fourth of July and New Year's Eve rolled into one.

There's something of the Maryland heavyweights in Milk Teeth, who in a short time have gone from punkish scamps to an undeniable force. Guitarist Billy Hutton is an irrepressible whirlwind of energy tonight; perhaps realising he's playing the very venue where he saw his first gig (Billy Talent, fact fans). By comparison, Against The Current's candyfloss hooks lack urgency, though they're bolstered by Chrissy Constanza's stage presence.

In between Good Charlotte's marathon of hits, with hands and toilet rolls flying everywhere, the brothers Madden express gratitude, with Joel asserting, "We've been through life together." In other hands, this might seem insincere, but there is a bona fide bond in play tonight. Little things like Joel's intervention in a crowd altercation, or Benji admitting to being wracked with embarrassment when they first played Emotionless here, feel genuine. By the time they're joined by Architects' Sam Carter to crush The River – the highlight in a home run of I Just Wanna Live and Lifestyles Of The Rich & Famous – the whole room is a celebration. It's a celebration of songs and lives that are forever young, but never hopeless.

Benji got his guyliner mixed up with superglue

Becky regretted not wearing her glasses onstage



Joel Madden and Sam Carter: givers of The River

Chrissy tries out her contortion act

STAR SHOUT!

BENJI MADDEN

GOOD CHARLOTTE, GUITAR/VOCALS

HOW DOES IT FEEL TO BE BACK PLAYING A SOLD-OUT SHOW HERE?
"We appreciate it even more than we did the first time. When we were kids, the music industry fucked us up a little bit, so doing it now I feel like we really have taken our band back for ourselves. Tonight it feels like our fans are with us, and going forward. We hope we make them proud."

BRINGING OUT SAM CARTER FOR THE RIVER WAS QUITE A SURPRISE!
"He's a legend! I told Sam I wanted to make tonight special, and he told me a story that he was here at those Brixton shows back in the day, and his mum dropped him off at 8am to wait in line outside the venue. It was great having him up there tonight, and he really came through for us."

NORTHLANE

PLUS: ERRA

ELECTRIC BALLROOM, LONDON.

25.11.17

KKKK

AUSSIE PROGRESSIVE METALCORE QUINTET GO FOR GOLD IN THE CAPITAL

TWO YEARS on from their first UK headline tour and things are on the up for Northlane. The Sydney tech-metallers are playing to numbers twice in size, and with four albums under their belts, including this year's 4K-rated Mesmer, they're well on their way to becoming one of Australia's premier heavy exports. Moments earlier, the room is packed for Alabama metalcore mob ERRA – who would sound a lot better if those somewhat predictable *guitar-guy-sings-the-chorus* bits were in tune. You can tell it's Saturday night, as the crowd goes wild for Slipknot's Psychosocial blasting from the PA before Northlane are anywhere to be seen, but once the off-kilter grooves of Colourwave begin ricocheting off the walls, there's no stopping them. Singer Marcus Bridge, who joined the band in 2014, is undoubtedly a star in the making – effortlessly showcasing a range few are born with, while guitarist Jon Deiley stares menacingly from behind a pollution mask, like the mad scientist at the helm of their nuclear fission. "It's day three of the tour, it's been amazing so far – let's keep the vibe up," grins Marcus before introducing Render. The crowd needs little encouragement, screaming every word back to the band in front of them – who, despite being over 10,000 miles from home, are welcomed as if they were local heroes. Closing with Paragon – their tribute to Architects guitarist Tom Searle, a scene hero that influenced the quintet's sound and name – this feels like a pivotal moment from a band that have never sounded better.

AMIT SHARMA

LOVEBITES

THE UNDERWORLD, LONDON.

27.11.17

KKK

JAPAN'S METAL DRAGONS IN SHEEP'S CLOTHING TAKE A BITE OUT OF CAMDEN

WITH THEIR sugar-white dresses and hyper-kawaii grins, when Lovebites bound onto The Underworld's storied stage, you'd think the five-piece were part of the cast of a colourful pantomime. But looks, as we know, can be deceiving. The instant they plug in and unleash a white-hot blast of roaring power metal, with operatic vocals that would make Myles Kennedy fret over his job security, it's clear these iron maidens are in the right postcode. Searing shred-athons like The Hammer Of Wrath scorch eyebrows with thrash-charged drums and serrated riffs, so it's no surprise that the Japanese metallers' evident chops have received praise from the likes of Lzzy Hale and Nita Strauss, Alice Cooper's respected axe-wielder. This is their first UK show two years since forming, and a month after releasing debut Awakening From The Abyss, it's a 'hello' of sorts. We're treated to a cutesy introductory segment – guitarist Mi-Ya loves Star Wars, drummer Haruna likes ramen – that comes off as both awkward and jarring. They're best when the music, such as the steamrolling Scream For Me, does the talking. Whether they'll be able to achieve the same crossover appeal as BABYMETAL remains to be seen. What is beyond doubt, however, is that Lovebites are no novelty proposition – they're a metal force in waiting.

JAMES MACKINNON

STONE SOUR

PLUS: THE PRETTY RECKLESS

O2 ACADEMY BRIXTON, LONDON.

04.12.17

KKKK

COREY TAYLOR AND CREW RETURN TO THE UK WITH A VENGEANCE

WORDS: JOHN LONGBOTTOM **PHOTOS:** PAUL HARRIES

The Pretty Reckless' Taylor Momsen practices her Oliver Twist impression

Corey and bandmate Christian Martucci partake in a shred off

Corey rocks a hairstyle we believe is referred to as a 'skullet'

SURE, SHARING a frontman with one of the world's most notorious live bands has its benefits. But because of the Corey Taylor connection, there's a tendency for people to talk about Stone Sour as if they're the Bruce Banner to Slipknot's Hulk. But that's bullshit. Certainly, they've got calmer moments than their masked counterparts, but if tonight proves one thing, it's that there's no mild-mannered side here. Stone Sour are a force to be reckoned with.

Up first, The Pretty Reckless' Taylor Momsen drawls her way through a boot-stomping set. Songs such as Sweet Things and Take Me Down threaten to ignite the audience, but the flame never quite catches. That doesn't matter, though, because the mullet man cometh… and he's armed with a confetti cannon.

"This will always be my favourite country in the entire fucking world!" yells Corey as he bounds around the stage, grinning madly. Stone Sour power through their set in a head-banging haze, with material ranging from their debut album to this summer's Hydrograd. Highlights include the band's uncharacteristically punk-rocky Rose Red Violent Blue, huge sing-along moments to Song #3 and Gone Sovereign, plus a satisfyingly dirty cover of Black Sabbath's Children Of The Grave.

There's also pyro, *that* confetti cannon and even 'wacky waving inflatable tube men' (those giant fan-powered things usually found on used car sales forecourts). Thankfully, though, the only vintage bangers on offer tonight are the likes of Hesitate and Through Glass, which threaten to lift the roof off of Brixton.

"See you next summer," grins Corey at the end of the show, already looking ahead to the band's newly-announced headline dates in June. Well, Corey, allow us to be the first to say that we can't wait.

STAR SHOUT!

COREY TAYLOR

STONE SOUR, VOCALS/GUITAR

HI, COREY! HOW'S THE UK TOUR BEEN GOING?

"The shows have been *massive*. It's the biggest tour Stone Sour has ever done here, not only from a production standpoint and the set itself, but from the size of the venues and the crowds we're playing to. The reception we've had has been incredible – every night we come offstage and say, 'My God! How did we get this lucky?'"

YOU'RE PLAYING YOUR COVER OF CHILDREN OF THE GRAVE FROM YOUR MEANWHILE IN BURBANK… EP. WHAT WAS IT ABOUT THE SONG THAT MADE YOU PICK IT TO BEGIN WITH?

"It's the one that, to me, lets everyone in this band showcase themselves, from the drums to the bass, and the dual guitars – because it takes two guitar players to cover Tony Iommi! Vocally, it's at the top of Ozzy's range, and it's definitely at the top of mine. It also has some of the most poignant lyrics that Black Sabbath ever put out."

KLOBBER

MUST HAVES

ALL THE BEST GEAR FROM THE FOUR CORNERS OF PLANET ROCK AND BEYOND!

Whoever owns Snoopy is due a visit from the RSPCA for making him live out in the snow this winter. NOT COOL. Also: here are some festive Vans.

£55 Vans.co.uk

You know when Brendon Urie sings '*Grab your hat and fetch a camera*' on She's A Handsome Woman, and you don't have one handy? Well now you do.

$13.23 (£9.97) Hottopic.com

These might look like Marilyn Manson's tears, but they're actually marshmallows for goths. They're too sad to eat the regular ones, you see.

£10.99 Firebox.com

Has anything ever looked more like it was about to smash up Christmas than the fist on this Rancid bauble? No, it has not.

€9.90 Eu.kingsroadmerch.com

You know who did not prevail? The skeleton on this T-shirt here. He's looking well defeated.

$15.33 (£11.33) Hottopic.com

These Dr. Martens are more disco than Head Automatica, which we must not talk about because Daryl Palumbo is back doing Glassjaw now, and we're not bitter. WE'RE NOT.

£95 Drmartens.com

When you've got to run your fruit and veg stall, but still wanna look well emo, these gloves are perfect.

$4.55 (£3.36) Hottopic.com

If you've got your nan, or the Queen, coming round, just stroke this cushion and it'll hide that excellent message.

£29.99 Firebox.com

Here's a metal shirt looking really metal. Which is generally what they do, isn't it?

$15.33 (£11.33) Hottopic.com

Wonder what Spider-Man is listening to here? He looks kinda riled up, so probably the Code Orange album. Lovely.

£12.99 Emp.co.uk

This White Walker wall decoration is low-key terrifying, buy you might be into that, so here ya go.

£14.99 Firebox.com

This Foos jacket will make you want to run track. Jk. Nothing makes us want to go running, ever.
£51.99 Emp.co.uk

Buy 100 of these Home Alone pin badges and lay them out by the door incase robbers try to break in.
£7 Punkypins.co.uk

Because there's not enough Nightmare Before Christmas-themed rubbish out there, here's a Monopoly board to add to the collection.
$31.43 (£23.28) Hottopic.com

Bit cold for camping, so don't do that. But do stay hydrated with this 30STM stainless steel flask. Fancy.
£22 Store.thirtysecondstomars.com

Snow globes are so festive and magical. The Upside Down from Stranger Things is less festive and magical…
£29.99 Firebox.com

There's definitely a metaphor in this shot from the Heavydirtysoul video. 2017 being the car… **Sideways eye emoji**
$15.33 (£11.35) Hottopic.com

I'M KNIT OKAY (TRUST ME)

REGULAR CHRISTMAS JUMPERS ARE BORING. THESE ONES ROCK. NO, THEY REALLY DO…

Where do presents come from? Andy Bier's Sack… pahahaha. Yeah, we don't know why we didn't get a job writing cracker jokes, either.
£29.99
Impericon.com

Bells were ringing out for Christmas Day, indeed. HELLS BELLS. We're not sure if they celebrate Xmas in Hell. We'll get back to you about that.
£10.87
Etsy.com

Rumour has it Slipknot used to eat roasted goats head with vomit gravy for Christmas dinner. You don't even wanna know what was in the Christmas pudding…
£51.99
Emp.co.uk

After years of being naughty, it seems as though Asking Alexandria might've finally made it onto Santa's 'good' list in 2017. Good for them.
£29.99
Impericon.com

The All Time Low logo's had a Christmas makeover here. Now all we need is a bit of All Time SNOW. We'll see ourselves out…
£29.99
Grindstore.com

Buy this for your 'bah humbug' mates. The snowflake design is so subtle they won't even realise it's a Christmas jumper.
£29.99
Impericon.com

GIG

DON'T MISS

DINOSAUR JR.

J MASCIS IS A MAN OF FEW WORDS, BUT HE'S STILL A BADASS. AND HE'S GEARING UP TO PLAY TO HIS CULT FOLLOWING IN THE UK…

HEY, J! YOU'RE PLAYING THREE SHOWS IN MANCHESTER ON THIS UK RUN – ARE YOU EXCITED TO GET BACK TO IT?

J MASCIS (*VOCALS/GUITAR*): "Yeah! I've always liked English music, and liked coming to England. I like a lot of music that came out of Manchester. I mean, I don't have much of a handle on it, but I guess I like going there better than some places. Maybe not [more than] London, though…"

RIGHT. YOU'VE BEEN COMING OVER HERE FOR THE LAST THREE DECADES OR SO – WHAT STICKS OUT IN YOUR MEMORY FROM THE FIRST TIME YOU PLAYED?

"I met a lot of people, and I still know some of them from that first time. I think our first gig was opening for Primal Scream at ULU [on November 26, 1987]. That was okay. The Boy Hairdressers also played. And I think we maybe played with Teenage Fanclub, too."

ONLY 'OKAY'? HMM. DO YOU MISS PLAYING THOSE SMALLER VENUES, OR DO YOU ENJOY THE LIFE OF LUXURY IN THE BIGGER VENUES OF THE WORLD?

"In some places we're still playing a lot of shitty clubs, so I guess that hasn't changed! I don't know if I could say I missed it or anything. There's not a certain kind, but there are sometimes clubs that seem to really want you to be there, and when you're on the road you'll go to a dressing room that has a record player and they really make it nice. I always like that; you feel like you're wanted, rather than at some crappy place."

WELL, THAT SOUNDS DELIGHTFUL… AND WHILE YOU'VE BEEN ON TOUR, HAVE YOU NOTICED ANY YOUNGER FACES SHOWING UP TO YOUR SHOWS?

"Oh yeah, for sure – there's a lot of kids. Crowds would be dwindling a lot otherwise. A lot of people our age tend to stay home and not really go out. I guess it is strange. It's weird when someone gets autographs for their parents…"

> **"IT'S WEIRD WHEN FANS GET AUTOGRAPHS FOR THEIR PARENTS"**
> **J MASCIS**

THOSE MILLENNIALS, EH? WITH SUCH A HUGE BACK CATALOGUE TO CHOOSE FROM, HOW DO YOU PICK A SET LIST?

"Usually we try to play a lot of the last record we did [2016's Give A Glimpse Of What Yer Not]. And then, I dunno, we decide to play songs we think people want to hear. On our last tour we had a thing where people could vote for the songs they wanted to hear. I don't know where – I think it was somewhere on our website. So sometimes that stirs up songs that I've forgotten about, and we'll play one of those. But there are so many songs that it's hard to figure it out."

MUST BE TRICKY… ANYWAY, CHRISTMAS IS SLOWLY CREEPING UP ON US, SO WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS THIS YEAR?

"I'm going to Germany this year with my wife, and they have a lot of traditions. It's more centred around Christmas Eve, while in the States it's not really centred around that."

LOVELY STUFF. FINALLY, YOU'RE STILL CONSIDERED A RELEVANT BAND GOING INTO 2018 – DID YOU EVER ENVISION GETTING THIS FAR INTO YOUR CAREER AND STILL BEING HELD IN SUCH A HIGH REGARD BY SO MANY PEOPLE ACROSS THE GLOBE?

"I'm not sure… I never really thought that far ahead – and I still don't. I couldn't really picture anything in the future. I used to hate touring a lot more in the '90s, but I like it these days."

DATES: London Roundhouse Camden December 13, Manchester Gorilla 14, 16 – 17. Support: Cloud Nothings (13), Ashtray Navigations (14), Neil Campbell & Michael Flower Duo (16), Herb Diamante (17).

WORDS: DAN SLESSOR **PHOTO:** GETTY

YOUR WEEK!

KERRANG! DAY *DECEMBER 13*

BIRMINGHAM ROAM, WSTR, Stand Atlantic (Mama Roux's)
HUDDERSFIELD Pulled Apart By Horses (Parish)
LONDON The Amity Affliction, Boston Manor, Vukovi, Casey (O2 Forum Kentish Town)
LONDON Dinosaur Jr. (Roundhouse, Camden)
LONDON Ho99o9 (Electric Ballroom, Camden)
LONDON Oathbreaker, Syndrome, Coilguns (Scala, King's Cross)
LONDON Santa Cruz, Skarlett Riot, Faunshead, Powderhead (Underworld, Camden)
MANCHESTER Normandie, William Ryan Key, Grumble Bee (Sound Control)
MANCHESTER The Red Jumpsuit Apparatus, Veridian (Rebellion)
NEWCASTLE Extreme, Dan Reed Network (O2 Academy Newcastle)
NEWCASTLE Silverstein (Think Tank?)

THURSDAY *DECEMBER 14*

BRISTOL Tall Ships, Tangled Hair (Thekla)
CARDIFF ROAM, WSTR, Stand Atlantic (Clwb Ifor Bach)
CHESTER Santa Cruz, Skarlett Riot (Live Rooms)
COVENTRY Pulled Apart By Horses (Empire)
GLASGOW Extreme, Dan Reed Network (O2 Academy Glasgow)
GLASGOW The Red Jumpsuit Apparatus, Veridian (Garage)
LONDON Gogol Bordello, Lucky Chops (O2 Academy Brixton)
MANCHESTER Dinosaur Jr. (Gorilla)
MANCHESTER The Prodigy (O2 Apollo Manchester)
MANCHESTER Silverstein (Sound Control)

FRIDAY *DECEMBER 15*

BIRMINGHAM Apologies, I Have None, Kamikaze Girls (Asylum2)
BIRMINGHAM The Red Jumpsuit Apparatus, Veridian (O2 Institute3 Birmingham)
BOLTON Raging Speedhorn (Alma Inn)
DONCASTER The Prodigy (Dome)
HUDDERSFIELD Silverstein (Parish)
LEEDS Tall Ships, Tangled Hair (Brudenell Social Club)
LONDON Mogwai (O2 Academy Brixton)
NEWCASTLE Normandie, William Ryan Key, Grumble Bee (Think Tank?)
NOTTINGHAM HIM, Biters (Rock City)
SWANSEA Santa Cruz, Skarlett Riot (Sin City)
WOLVERHAMPTON Gogol Bordello, Lucky Chops (Wulfrun Hall)

SATURDAY *DECEMBER 16*

BOURNEMOUTH Santa Cruz, Skarlett Riot (Anvil)
GLASGOW Mogwai, Ride, Sacred Paws (SSE Hydro)
LEEDS Extreme (O2 Academy Leeds)
LEEDS The Red Jumpsuit Apparatus, Veridian, Kill The Silence (Key Club)
LONDON Silverstein (Garage, Highbury)
LONDON Tall Ships, Tangled Hair (Dome, Tufnell Park)
MANCHESTER Dinosaur Jr. (Gorilla)
MANCHESTER HIM, Biters (Academy)
NOTTINGHAM Gogol Bordello, Lucky Chops (Rock City)
PLYMOUTH The Prodigy (Pavilions)
WOLVERHAMPTON Thunder (Civic Hall)

SUNDAY *DECEMBER 17*

BIRMINGHAM Extreme, Dan Reed Network (O2 Academy Birmingham)
BIRMINGHAM Five Finger Death Punch, In Flames, Of Mice & Men (Arena)
BOURNEMOUTH The Decoy (Anvil)
BRISTOL Apologies, I Have None, Kamikaze Girls (Exchange)
LEEDS Pulled Apart By Horses, Blood Red Shoes, Honeyblood, Weirds, Crows, Forever Cult, Baba Naga (Brudenell Social Club)
LONDON HIM, Biters (Roundhouse, Camden)
MANCHESTER Dinosaur Jr. (Gorilla)
NORWICH Santa Cruz, Skarlett Riot (Waterfront Studio)
OXFORD The Red Jumpsuit Apparatus, Veridian, Better Than Never (O2 Academy2 Oxford)
ST ALBANS Trash Boat, Homebound, Weatherstate, Led By Lanterns (Horn)

RIDER OF THE WEEK

BAND: Weezer

There's four members in the band, but they've only asked for one chocolate bar? Do they get a bite each per gig?

weezer

24 x 500ml bottles of water
6 x cans of Diet Coke
6 x bottles of Coors Light
1 x bottle of Rombauer Chardonnay
1 x bottle of Jordan California Cabernet Sauvignon
1 x bag of Kettle Chips Lightly Salted
6 x assorted non-gelatin yoghurts
2 x ripe Hass avocados
1 x loaf of wholegrain wheat bread
1 x jar of natural almond butter
1 x jar of 100% fruit jam
1 x bag of tortilla chips
1 x jar of salsa
1 x dark chocolate candy bar
1 x medium container of sliced fresh fruit
Sliced, roasted white turkey
1 x small cheese plate for four people
1 x small container of Sabra hummus
1 x small bag of pita bread

CAN'T GET TO A GIG?

THEN HERE'S SOME OTHER STUFF TO KEEP YOUR EYES/EARS BUSY

BLINK-182 PERFORM WHAT'S MY AGE AGAIN? AT STEVE AOKI'S BIRTHDAY PARTY

KERRANG.COM

The superstar DJ has a strong rock connection, so instead of some mega-rave, Steve opted for blink-182 to play acoustic songs at his birthday bash. Jealous!

WATCH QUICKSAND'S PERFORMANCE STREAMED LIVE ON KERRANG!'S YOUTUBE

KERRANG! YOUTUBE

You've had Frank Iero And The Patience and Enter Shikari, and now it's time for post-hardcore legends Quicksand to perform live exclusively for us! Head to our YouTube to watch it – and keep an eye out for more to come.

KIDS REACT TO BLACK SABBATH

KERRANG.COM

YouTubers The Fine Bros have continued their ever-popular franchise, Kids React. This time they got their subjects to listen to the mighty Black Sabbath. Surprisingly, 90 per cent of them knew who they were. That's some strong parenting.

MONDAY *DECEMBER 18*

BRISTOL Extreme, Dan Reed Network (O2 Academy Bristol)
GLASGOW Five Finger Death Punch, In Flames, Of Mice & Men (SSE Hydro)
GLASGOW The Prodigy (O2 Academy Glasgow)
LONDON Biters (Underworld, Camden)
LONDON Press To MECO (Oslo, Hackney)
ST ALBANS Trash Boat, The Gospel Youth, Best Years, Led By Lanterns (Horn)

TUESDAY *DECEMBER 19*

LONDON Dio Returns (O2 Academy Islington)
WOLVERHAMPTON The Prodigy (Civic Hall)

MY FIRST GIG

WHO: QUEEN, ESTÁDIO DO MORUMBI, SÃO PAULO, 1981

THE SOULFLY LEADER SAW THE LEGENDARY QUARTET AT THE HEIGHT OF THEIR POWERS. WE'RE NOT JEALOUS. NOPE, NOT AT ALL...

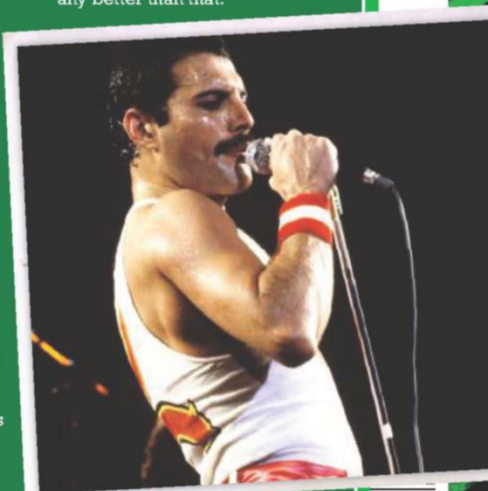
MAX CAVALERA, *SOULFLY*

"I love that my first show was such a good one! Queen were touring Brazil in support of The Game [1980], and they had sold out the soccer stadium in São Paulo. My cousin took my brother Igor and I, and it really was like we got bitten by the rock disease that night; I can literally track the infection we've had for life back to the few hours we were at that show. I didn't really like music at that time – it was just not really interesting to me, because all I cared about was soccer. The show was actually at the venue we would go to watch our team play every Sunday.

"I realised that night that the power and the feeling inside that music gave me was bigger than anything I had ever felt before. When you're a kid, that's quite the wake-up call! It was like someone flipped a switch and everything changed. It was a whole different experience for me. I couldn't believe the energy of this thing – it was so intense.

"Queen really were at the top of *their* game when touring for The Game, and Freddie Mercury was every bit as charismatic as everyone always says he was. He had the whole stadium in the palm of his hand, getting everyone singing back to him in that operatic way. They played so many great songs, too. We Will Rock you sounded *insane* with everyone stomping their feet and clapping their hands, and We Are The Champions had everyone singing along. [They played] all of the classics you could ever hope to hear, and the talent was just pouring off the stage.

"They really brought it big with production, too. There's a reason they're called one of the inventors of stadium rock! They were among the first to bring all the lights and explosions and everything. Really, though, it was almost like none of that mattered, because it was all about the music. It just doesn't get any better than that."



WORDS: DAN SLESSOR

MY VENUE

CHINNERYS
SOUTHEND
21–22 MARINE PARADE, SOUTHEND-ON-SEA, SS1 2EJ
GLYN MORGAN, OWNER &
BEN RUDGE, PROMOTER/BOOKER

HEY! COULD YOU TELL US HOW CHINNERYS ENDED UP BECOMING A MUSIC VENUE?
Ben: "The venue itself was taken over by Glyn Morgan, who used to promote and run The Esplanade [pub] in Southend – The Esp hosted a number of shows, but the biggest would probably be Pearl Jam's first-ever UK show. He then moved down the road to Chinnerys in the early-'00s, and we have hosted bands like Biffy Clyro, Ugly Kid Joe, Skindred, Nothing But Thieves and more."

AND WHAT DO THE PAIR OF YOU DO AT THE VENUE?
Glyn: "The two of us spend our time booking the artists and promoting the shows. The artwork at the venue is forever changing and needs to be constantly updated, and then there's the admin of PRS forms, ticket counts and riders."

HOW IMPORTANT IS THE VENUE IN THE MUSIC SCENE?
Glyn: "In terms of the current climate of the music industry, the venue is hugely important to not only the local area, but actually the whole of Essex. With more and more venues closing all over Essex, we find that we are one of only two touring venues of up to 500-cap in the whole of Essex."

KEEP IT UP! WHAT HAVE BEEN YOUR FAVOURITE SHOWS?
Ben: "There have been *so* many. But I think I can safely speak for both of us here that it's Skindred who stand out. We have had them a number of times over the past few years and it is always electric. You've never experienced the Newport Helicopter until you've seen the boys do it at Chinnerys. Also, special mention to Southend boys Nothing But Thieves. The last time they played the venue it was incredible and also the fastest-selling show we have ever had. All 400 tickets went in two minutes."

AND ARE YOU EXCITED FOR YOUR SCHEDULE IN 2018?
Ben: "We have Jamie Lenman in February, and it'll be good to see him back at the venue as we had Reuben play many, many times. Plus, we have Lower Than Atlantis booked in for next April which is going to go *off* – everyone is really looking forward to that."

SOUNDS GOOD. FINALLY, WHAT'S THE PLAN FOR THE FUTURE OF THE VENUE?
Glyn: "To keep building the venue's profile, and to keep raising the production in the venue. We want to keep bands and punters coming through and leaving with smiles and stories of great gigs!"

BOOKING NOW

36 CRAZYFISTS
Glasgow Cathouse January 18, 2018, Manchester Academy III 19, O2 Academy2 Birmingham 20, London O2 Academy Islington 21.

A PERFECT CIRCLE
O2 Apollo Manchester June 12, 2018, London O2 Academy Brixton 13.

ALESTORM
O2 Academy Liverpool February 9, 2018, Sheffield Corporation 10, Newcastle Uni 11, Aberdeen Garage 13, O2 ABC Glasgow 14, Belfast Mandela Hall 15, Dublin Tivoli 16, Birmingham HRH Metal 17, O2 Ritz Manchester 18, Leeds Stylus 20, Norwich Waterfront 21, London O2 Forum Kentish Town 22, Brighton Concorde II 23, Bristol Motion 24, Southampton Engine Rooms 25. Support: The Dread Crew Of Oddwood, Rumahoy.

ALIEN ANT FARM
O2 Academy Bristol February 6, 2018, London O2 Forum Kentish Town 7, O2 Ritz Manchester 8, Norwich Waterfront 10, O2 Academy Leeds 11, Birmingham O2 Institute 12, Dublin Academy 14, Belfast Limelight II 15, Glasgow Garage 16, O2 Academy Newcastle 17, Nottingham Rock City 18. Support: SOiL, Local H.

ALL TIME LOW
Glasgow SECC March 12, 2018, Cardiff Motorpoint Arena 14, Birmingham Genting Arena 15, Manchester Arena 16, London Alexandra Palace 17. Support: Pierce The Veil.

ANDREW W.K.
Cardiff Great Hall April 13, 2018, London O2 Forum Kentish Town 14, O2 Academy2 Birmingham 15, Norwich Waterfront 18, Portsmouth Pyramids Wedgewood Rooms 19, O2 Ritz Manchester 20, Glasgow Garage 21.

ARCANE ROOTS
Gateshead Sage February 27, 2018, London Heaven March 1, Manchester Gorilla 2, Sheffield Leadmill 3, Glasgow Oran Mor 4, O2 Institute2 Birmingham 6, Bristol Trinity 8. Support: Brutus.

ARCH ENEMY
O2 ABC Glasgow February 9, 2018, Nottingham Rock City 10, London Camden KOKO 11, O2 Ritz Manchester 13, O2 Academy Bristol 14. Support: Wintersun, Tribulation.

ARCHITECTS
London Alexandra Palace February 3, 2018. Support: While She Sleeps, Counterparts.

AS IT IS
Nottingham Rescue Rooms March 9, 2018, Manchester Academy II 10, Glasgow Garage 11, O2 Institute2 Birmingham 13, Cardiff Globe 15, London Camden KOKO 16. Support: Like Pacific, Grayscale.

AT THE DRIVE IN
London O2 Academy Brixton March 9, 2018, O2 Academy Newcastle 10, O2 Academy Birmingham 12, O2 Apollo Manchester 13, O2 Academy Glasgow 15. Support: Death From Above, Le Butcherettes.

BLACK VEIL BRIDES / ASKING ALEXANDRIA
O2 Academy Birmingham January 23, 2018, Manchester Academy 24, O2 Academy Glasgow 25, London O2 Academy Brixton 27.

BLACK LABEL SOCIETY
London Royal Albert Hall April 5, 2018, Dublin Tivoli 7, Belfast Limelight 8 – 9.

BLACK MOTH
Brighton Hope & Ruin February 7, 2018, London Boston Music Room 8. Support: Grave Lines.

BLOODSTOCK FESTIVAL 2018
Line-up: Judas Priest, Gojira, Nightwish, Emperor, Nails, Devildriver, Watain, Orden Ogan, Combichrist, Memoriam, Septicflesh, Doro, Fozzy, Bloodbath. Derby Catton Hall Park August 9 – 12, 2018.

BOWLING FOR SOUP
O2 Academy Glasgow February 9, 2018, O2 Academy Newcastle 10, O2 Academy Sheffield 11, Nottingham Rock City 12, O2 Academy Birmingham 13, Norwich UEA 14, O2 Apollo Manchester 15, Cardiff Motorpoint Arena 16, London O2 Academy Brixton 17. Support: The Aquabats!, Army Of Freshmen.

BRIAN FALLON & THE HOWLING WEATHER
O2 Institute Birmingham February 20, 2018, O2 Ritz Manchester 21, O2 ABC Glasgow 22, London KOKO Camden 23, Nottingham Rock City 24, Bristol SXW 25, Newcastle Boiler Shop March 8, Leeds Beckett 9. Support: Dave Hause.

CARNIFEX
London Tufnell Park Dome February 26, 2018, Birmingham Mama Roux's 27, Glasgow G2 28, Manchester Academy III March 1, Leeds Key Club 2, Bridgend Hobos 3. Support: Oceano, Aversions Crown, Disentomb.

THE DAMNED
O2 Academy Newcastle January 26, 2018, Dundee Caird Hall 27, O2 Academy Glasgow 28, O2 Academy Leeds 30, Manchester Academy 31, O2 Academy Birmingham February 1, O2 Academy Leicester 3, Nottingham Rock City 4, Folkestone Leas Cliff Hall 6, Southend Cliffs Pavilion 7, Cardiff Great Hall 9, O2 Academy Bristol 10, O2 Academy Bournemouth 11, O2 Guildhall Southampton 13, Bexhill De La Warr Pavilion 14, London O2 Forum 17.

DANCE GAVIN DANCE / VEIL OF MAYA
Birmingham Asylum March 3, 2018, Bristol Marble Factory 4, Newcastle Riverside 5, Glasgow Garage 6, Manchester Academy II 7, Nottingham Rescue Rooms 8, London O2 Academy Islington 9.

DESERTFEST 2018
Line-up: Monster Magnet, Nebula, Eyehategod, Jex Thoth, Planet Of Zeus, Black Moth, The Black Wizards, Graveyard, Napalm Death, Warning, Eyehategod, Winterfylleth, Five The Hierophant. London Camden May 4 – 6 @ various venues.

DESPISED ICON
London Dome Tufnell Park February 11, 2018, Birmingham Mama Roux's 12, Manchester Gorilla 13. Support: Malevolence, Archspire, Vulvodynia.

DON BROCO
Portsmouth Pyramids February 8, 2018, O2 Academy Bristol 9, Cardiff Great Hall 10, Norwich UEA 12, Nottingham Rock City 13, O2 Academy Birmingham 15, Manchester Academy 16, O2 Academy Leeds 17, Newcastle Northumbria Institute 19, Aberdeen Garage 20, Glasgow Barrowland 21.

DOWNLOAD FESTIVAL 2018
Line-up: Ozzy Osbourne, Avenged Sevenfold, Guns N' Roses, Marilyn Manson, BABYMETAL, Asking Alexandria, Black Veil Brides, Alexisonfire, Bullet For My Valentine, Rise Against, Parkway Drive, Body Count, The Hives, In This Moment, Neck Deep, Meshuggah, Mayday Parade, The Pink Slips, WSTR, Dreamstate. Derby Donington Park June 8 – 10, 2018.

EMP PERSISTENCE TOUR
Line-up: Hatebreed, Madball, Terror, Power Trip, Broken Teeth, Insanity Alert. London O2 Forum Kentish Town January 28, 2018.

EUROPE
Manchester Academy September 14, 2018, Glasgow Barrowland 15, O2 Academy Newcastle 17, Nottingham Rock City 18, O2 Institute Birmingham 19, Cardiff St. David's Hall 21, Portsmouth Pyramids Centre 22, London Royal Albert Hall 23, Brighton Dome 24. Support: King King.

EVANESCENCE
London Royal Festival Hall March 30 – 31, 2018, O2 Apollo Manchester 2, Nottingham Arena 3, Glasgow Armadillo 5, Sheffield City Hall 6.

FALL OUT BOY
London Brixton Electric January 11, 2018. Birmingham Barclaycard Arena March 27, 2018, Cardiff Motorpoint Arena 28, Manchester Arena 29, London O2 Arena 31.

FANGCLUB
Leeds Lending Rooms January 23, 2018, Glasgow Garage Attic 25, Birmingham Sunflower Lounge 26, London Thousand Island 27.

FEEDER
William Aston Hall Wrexham March 5, 2018, O2 Academy Bristol 7, Norwich Nick Rayns LCR UEA 8, Manchester Academy 10, Glasgow Barrowland 11, O2 Academy Leeds 13, O2 Academy Birmingham 14, Nottingham Rock City 16, London O2 Academy Brixton 17.

JUST ANNOUNCED

PHOTO: GETTY

PEARL JAM

London O2 Arena June 18 – 19, 2018.

BLOODSTOCK FESTIVAL 2018
Latest additions: Suicidal Tendencies, Wednesday 13, Kamelot, Mr. Big.

DON BROCO
Support added: Man With A Mission.

EARTHLESS
Bristol Fleece April 4, 2018, Manchester Deaf Institute 5, London Islington Assembly Hall 6. Support: Comet Control.

FOO FIGHTERS
Support added: Wolf Alice (19 and 22 only), Frank Carter & The Rattlesnakes (22 only), The Kills (23 only), Slaves (23 only).

LOATHE / HOLDING ABSENCE
Bristol Thekla February 28, 2018, Manchester Star & Garter March 1, Glasgow Audio 2, Newcastle Think Tank? 3, Leeds Key Club 4, Nottingham Bodega 6, Birmingham Asylum 7, London Boston Music Room 8, Bournemouth Anvil 9, Bridgend Hobos 10.

MILK TEETH
Bristol Exchange March 13, 2018, Oxford Bullingdon 14, Liverpool Buyers Club 15, Huddersfield Parish 16, Edinburgh Mash House 17, Manchester Deaf Institute 19, Birmingham Mama Roux's 20, Milton Keynes Craufurd Arms 21, London Camden Underworld 23, Bournemouth Anvil 24, Plymouth Junction 25. Support: Fangclub, Nervus.

MODERN LIFE IS WAR
Brighton Haunt June 25, 2018, Leeds Brudenell Social Club 26, Bristol Exchange 27, London Camden Underworld 28.

NICKELBACK
Glasgow SSE Hydro May 3, 2018, Leeds First Direct Arena 5, Liverpool Echo Arena 7, Manchester Arena 8, Birmingham Genting Arena 10, London O2 Arena 11, Nottingham Motorpoint Arena 13. Support: Seether.

SLAM DUNK FESTIVAL 2018
Latest additions: Good Charlotte, PVRIS, Frank Carter & The Rattlesnakes, Thursday, Creeper, Every Time I Die, Knuckle Puck, Real Friends, Crown The Empire.

FIVE FINGER DEATH PUNCH
Birmingham Barclaycard Arena December 17, Glasgow SSE Hydro Arena 18, Leeds First Direct Arena 20, London SSE Arena, Wembley 21. Support: In Flames, Of Mice & Men.

FIZZY BLOOD
Manchester Soup Kitchen February 22, 2018, Glasgow Old Hairdressers 23, Leeds Headrow House 24, Birmingham Sunflower Lounge 27, London Camden Assembly 28.

FOO FIGHTERS
Manchester Etihad Stadium June 19, 2018, London Stadium 22 – 23.

THE FRONT BOTTOMS
Manchester Albert Hall February 9, Glasgow Barrowland 10, O2 Academy Newcastle 11, Dublin Vicar Street 13, Belfast Mandela Hall 14, O2 Academy Sheffield 16, Nottingham Rock City 17, Portsmouth Pyramids Centre 24, Norwich Waterfront 25, O2 Institute Birmingham 26, O2 Academy Bristol 27, London Camden Roundhouse 28. Support: The Smith Street Band, Brick + Mortar.

GRETA VAN FLEET
Manchester Deaf Institute March 30, 2018, O2 Institute3 Birmingham 31, Glasgow King Tut's April 1, London O2 Academy Islington 4.

HEAVY SCOTLAND
Line-up: Carcass, Gama Bomb, Nervosa, Perpetua. Edinburgh Corn Exchange August 31 – September 2, 2018.

IRON MAIDEN
Newcastle Metro Radio Arena July 31, 2018, Belfast SSE Arena August 2, 2018, Aberdeen AECC BHGE Arena 4, Manchester Arena 6, Birmingham Genting Arena 7, London O2 Arena 10. Support: Killswitch Engage.

LACUNA COIL
London O2 Shepherd's Bush Empire January 19, 2018.

LOWER THAN ATLANTIS
Lincoln Engine Shed April 2, 2018, Cambridge Junction 3, Leamington Spa Assembly 4, Swansea Sin City 6, Pontypridd Muni Arts Centre 7, Gloucester Guildhall 8, Bath Komedia 9, Exeter Lemongrove 11, Southampton Engine Rooms 12, Watford Colosseum 13, Southend Chinnerys 14, Brighton Concorde II 15, O2 Academy Oxford May 3, Reading Sub89 4, Wrexham Central Station 5, Liverpool Hangar34 7, Aberdeen Lemon Tree 8, Edinburgh Liquid Rooms 9, Middlesbrough Empire 11, Hull Welly 12, York Fibbers 13, Sheffield Plug 14.

MACHINE HEAD
O2 Guildhall Southampton May 13, 2018, Cardiff University 14, O2 Academy Bristol 15, O2 Academy Birmingham 17, London Camden Roundhouse 18 – 19, Nottingham Rock City 21, O2 Academy Newcastle 22, O2 Academy Glasgow 23, Manchester Academy 25.

MARMOZETS
Cardiff Tramshed February 2, 2018, Southampton Engine Rooms 3, Brighton Concorde II 4, Cambridge Junction 6, London Student Central ULU 7, Nottingham Rescue Rooms 8, Newcastle Riverside 9, Sheffield Leadmill 11, Edinburgh Liquid Room 12. Support: Queen Zee And The Sasstones.

THE MENZINGERS
Dublin Whelans January 28, 2018, Belfast Limelight 29, Bristol SWX 31, Glasgow SWG3 February 1, O2 Ritz Manchester 2, London O2 Shepherd's Bush Empire 3. Support: PUP, Cayetana.

MISS MAY I
Southampton Talking Heads January 22, 2018, Glasgow G2 23, Birmingham Mama Roux's 24, Manchester Dead Shed 25, London Camden Underworld 26, Bristol Exchange 27. Support: Fit For A King, Void Of Vision, Currents.

MONGOL HORDE
Glasgow King Tut's January 25, 2018, Manchester Academy III 26, O2 Institute2 Birmingham 27, London King's Cross Scala 28.

MOOSE BLOOD
Nottingham Rock City March 2, 2018, Manchester Academy 3, Glasgow QMU 5, O2 Academy Newcastle 6, O2 Institute Birmingham 8, O2 Academy Bristol 9, London Camden Roundhouse 10. Support: The Dangerous Summer.

MOTIONLESS IN WHITE
Southampton Engine Rooms January 18, 2018, O2 Academy Bristol 19, Leeds Stylus 20, Glasgow Garage 22, Newcastle Riverside 23, London KOKO Camden 25, O2 Institute Birmingham 26, O2 Ritz Manchester 27, Norwich Waterfront 28. Support: Cane Hill, Ice Nine Kills.

ORANGE GOBLIN
London Camden Electric Ballroom December 22. Support: Karma To Burn, Black Moth, Riddles.

PACESHIFTERS
St Albans Horn February 14, 2018, Liverpool Sound 15, Glasgow Garage 16, Newcastle Think Tank? 17, Leeds Brudenell Social Club 18, Nottingham Bodega 20, London Assembly Camden 21, Tunbridge Wells Forum 22, Brighton Sticky Mike's Frog Bar 23.

PARADISE LOST
Colchester Arts Centre February 15, 2018, Portsmouth Wedgewood Rooms 16, Bristol Thekla 17, Nottingham Rescue Rooms 18, Belfast Limelight II 20, Dublin Tivoli 21, Glasgow Classic Grand 22, Manchester Gorilla 23.

PARAMORE
Cardiff Motorpoint Arena January 11, 2018, London O2 Arena 12, Birmingham Genting Arena 14, Manchester Arena 19, Glasgow SSE Hydro 20.

THE PRODIGY
O2 Apollo Manchester December 14, Doncaster Dome 15, Plymouth Pavilions 16, O2 Academy Glasgow 18, Wolverhampton Civic Hall 19, London O2 Academy Brixton 21 – 23.

QUEENS OF THE STONE AGE
London Finsbury Park June 30, 2018. Support: Iggy Pop, The Hives, Run The Jewels.

RAGE / FIREWIND
London Camden Underworld January 21, 2018, Sheffield Corporation 22.

RAMBLIN' MAN FAIR
Line-up: Halestorm, Blackberry Smoke, Sons Of Apollo, Steve Earle And The Dukes. Maidstone Mote Park June 30 – July 1, 2018.

REEF / THE WILDHEARTS / TERRORVISION
Manchester Academy May 4, 2018, Birmingham Digbeth Arena 5, London Eventim Apollo Hammersmith 6, O2 Academy Glasgow 19, O2 Academy Newcastle 20.

ROLO TOMASSI
Glasgow Audio April 3, 2018, Manchester Deaf Institute 4, Birmingham Flapper 5, Bristol Exchange 6, London Highbury Garage 7, Leeds Strangeforms 8.

SEAWAY
Bristol Exchange January 10, 2018, Nottingham Bodega 11, Leeds Key Club 12, Glasgow Stereo 13, Manchester Rebellion 14, O2 Institute3 Birmingham 15, Southampton Joiners 16, London Garage 17. Support: WOES, Lizzy Farrell.

SKINDRED
Norwich UEA April 19, 2018, O2 Guildhall Southampton 20, Nottingham Rock City 21, Manchester Academy 22, O2 ABC Glasgow 24, O2 Academy Bristol 25, O2 Academy Leeds 27, London O2 Academy Brixton 28, O2 Institute Birmingham 29. Support: CKY.

SLAM DUNK FESTIVAL 2018
Line-up: Jimmy Eat World, Taking Back Sunday, Sleeping With Sirens, State Champs, Four Year Strong, Trash Boat. Leeds City Centre May 26, 2018, Hatfield Park 27, Birmingham NEC Arena 28.

STARSET
Manchester Academy III March 21, 2018, London O2 Academy Islington 23, O2 Institute2 Birmingham 24, Bristol Fleece 25.

STONE FREE FESTIVAL
Line-up: Megadeth, Scorpions, Yes, Roger Hodgson, Joanne Shaw Taylor. London O2 Arena June 16 – 17, 2018.

TESTAMENT
Bristol Motion March 29, 2018, O2 Ritz Manchester 30, O2 Institute Birmingham 31, Dublin Vicar Street April 1, 2018, Glasgow QMU 2, London Camden KOKO 4. Support: Annihilator, Vader.

THIRTY SECONDS TO MARS
Cardiff Motorpoint Arena March 23, 2018, Manchester Arena 24, Glasgow SSE Hydro 25, London O2 Arena 27, Birmingham Barclaycard Arena 29.

TONIGHT ALIVE
Manchester O2 Ritz March 6, 2018, London KOKO 8, Glasgow QMU 10, Nottingham Rock City 11, Leeds Stylus 12, Bristol Motion 13. Support: With Confidence, The Gospel Youth.

TRIVIUM
O2 Academy Bristol April 16, 2018, O2 Birmingham Academy 17, O2 Academy Glasgow 19, Manchester Academy 20, London O2 Academy Brixton 21. Support: Code Orange, Power Trip, Venom Prison.

THE USED
Nottingham Rock City February 11, 2018, O2 Ritz Manchester 12, O2 Academy Bristol 15, London O2 Shepherd's Bush Empire 16.

WATERPARKS
O2 Institute Birmingham March 1, 2018, Dublin Academy 2, Leeds Stylus 3, London KOKO Camden 4, O2 ABC Glasgow 6, O2 Ritz Manchester 7, Cardiff Y Plas 8, Southampton Engine Rooms 9, Brighton Concorde II 10.

WHILE SHE SLEEPS
O2 Academy Bristol February 5, 2018, O2 Institute Birmingham 6, O2 ABC Glasgow 8, O2 Ritz Manchester 10.

WITHIN TEMPTATION
O2 Academy Birmingham November 9, 2018, O2 Apollo Manchester 10, O2 Academy Glasgow 11, London O2 Academy Brixton.

THE XCERTS
O2 Academy3 Leicester February 18, 2018, Sheffield Plug 19, Dublin Whelans 20, O2 ABC Glasgow 23, Aberdeen Garage 24, Stockton-On-Tees Georgian Theatre 25, Manchester Deaf Institute 26, Cambridge Portland Arms 28, Wolverhampton Slade Rooms March 1, London Heaven 2, Cardiff Clwb Ifor Bach 3, Southampton Joiners 4.

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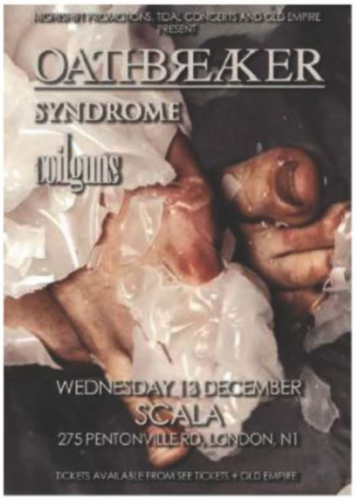

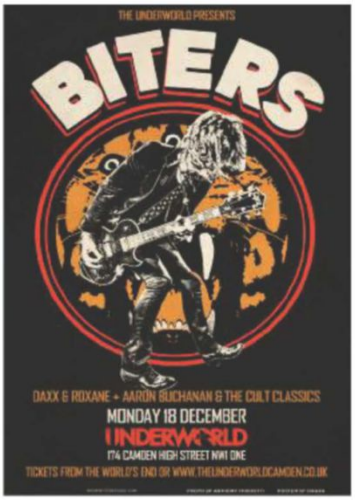

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GUESS WHO'S COMING TO RUIN CHRISTMAS...

EDITORIAL

WHAT'S YOUR SINGLE FAVOURITE MOMENT OF 2017?

EDITOR: Sam Coare (*She said 'Yes' (to travelling around Europe watching GN'R, obviously)*)

ART EDITOR: Steve Beech (*Having the freedom to be creative again*)

ASSOCIATE EDITOR (REVIEWS): Nick Ruskell (*Making the metal album of 2018*)

DEPUTY ART EDITOR: Matt Dylczeul (*Seeing my whole family for a two-week holiday*)

PRODUCTION EDITOR: Emily Carter (*No longer being alone and miserable – thanks George Garner!*)

LISTINGS EDITOR: James Hingle (*Meeting God. Well, not actual God, but close: Dave Grohl*)

CONTRIBUTING EDITORS: Katie Parsons (*Reuniting with my rock buddies at Reading Festival*), Jennyfer J. Walker (*Sunning myself on a beach in Cancun*)

DIGITAL EDITOR: Bob Foster (*I enjoyed my first full year of marriage!*)

CONTRIBUTORS: Matt Allen, Steve Beebee, Paul Brannigan, Woody Cecilia, Ryan De Freitas, Hannah Ewens, George Garner, James Hickie, Sam Law, Alistair Lawrence, John Longbottom, James MacKinnon, David McLaughlin, Jake Richardson, Amit Sharma, Tom Shepherd, Dan Slessor, Mark Sutherland, Olly Thomas, Ben Tipple, Paul Travers, Ian Winwood, Rod Yates, Simon Young, Ray Zell.

PHOTOGRAPHERS: Tom Barnes, David Bergman, Lindsey Byrnes, Chris Casey, Ian Collins, Carrie Davenport, Andy Ford, Andy Gallagher, Paul Harries, Jeremy Harris, Lisa Johnson, Andrew Lipovsky, Ashley Maile, Tom Martin, Martin Philbey, Andrew Timms, Neil Visel, Dave Willis.

SPECIAL THANKS TO: Stu Garneys (*Guns N' Roses reforming. Never thought we would see it again*), James Hickie (*Seeing Foo Fighters at Rock Werchter in Belgium. Big fireworks. Bigger tunes*)

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REALLY IMPORTANT PEOPLE

CEO: Jerry Perkins (jerry@wastedtalent.com)
GLOBAL CREATIVE DIRECTOR: Phil Alexander (phil.alexander@kerrang.com)
M.D.: Nick Stevenson (nick@wastedtalent.com)
FINANCIAL DIRECTOR: David Joseph
DIRECTOR: David Hepworth
CHAIRMAN: Ian Flooks
DISTRIBUTION: Seymour (0207 429 4000)
PRINTING: PCP

ADVERTISING
TELEPHONE: 0207 078 8423
BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT MANAGER Juliette Roques (juliette.roques@wastedtalent.com)
ADVERTISING SALES MANAGER: Owain Harries (owain@wastedtalent.com)
DIGITAL SALES MANAGER: Katie Scrafton (katie@wastedtalent.com)
ADVERTISING PRODUCTION: Daisy Perkins (daisy@wastedtalent.com)

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THE ULTIMATE ROCKSTAR TEST

DANNY WORSNOP

ASKING ALEXANDRIA

LOCK UP YOUR MOBILITY SCOOTERS AND MARVEL MOVIE FRANCHISES – AA'S FRONTMAN IS IN TOWN…

ON ROCK'N'ROLL…

WHAT'S THE LONGEST YOU'VE GONE WITHOUT SLEEP?

"Around four or five days. Three years ago, I woke up in the morning and felt LA wasn't doing it for me, so packed up a car, pulled a couple of friends in, and drove to Vegas. We had a penthouse to lose our minds in for a week. I rented us mobility scooters, and we were in our bathrobes driving up and down the road."

WHAT'S THE WORST FIGHT YOU'VE BEEN IN?

"When me and [We Are Harlot bandmate] Jeff George first started hanging out in Beverly Hills, some guy came over to the house. We were all drinking and suddenly this guy put his hands on Jeff, so I threw him onto the street. I was probably being a violent youth, so fights are best avoided!"

WHAT'S BEEN YOUR STRANGEST ENCOUNTER WITH A FAN?

"This guy asked us to beat the shit out of his car and sign it, so we got a bunch of hammers and tyre irons and went for it. We even signed where we beat it! Only later did we realise we'd vandalised someone's belongings and left evidence. Since then, we've realised it was highly illegal and we were lucky not to end up in jail. We didn't even know if it was the guy's car!"

It'd be a bugger to shift it on eBay, too…

ON FAILURES AND FUCK-UPS…

IF YOU HAD TO DELETE A SONG FROM YOUR HISTORY, WHICH WOULD IT BE?

"There's quite a few! It would be something from [debut album] Stand Up And Scream. I'll go with Not The American Average – it's a big fucking song so I have to do it every night, but it's a pain in the arse to sing."

WHAT'S THE WORST GIG YOU'VE PLAYED?

"This will always be Seattle in 2011. It was a blur of drugs and alcohol; I punched people in the face, fell unconscious and got pulled into rehab. [The band and crowd telling me to go to rehab] was probably the biggest headline I've ever had. I was on the front page of all these news sites, but definitely not for the reasons I wanted to be!"

Not sure there's ever been a more predictable answer to this question…

LIFESTYLES OF THE RICH AND FAMOUS…

WHO IS THE MOST FAMOUS PERSON IN YOUR PHONEBOOK?

"Since I've deteriorated into becoming a recluse, I only have 11 contacts in my phonebook: my lawyer, my manager, my accountant, plus the band, Ronnie Radke and a couple of others. There's also Chris D'Elia in there – he's an awesome comedian."

WHAT'S THE WEIRDEST THING YOU'VE READ ABOUT YOURSELF ONLINE?

"There was a hilarious one about me getting kicked out of [famous rockstar watering hole] the Rainbow [Bar and Grill] in LA. I didn't even live in LA, so the story didn't have an ounce of credibility. Apparently I showed up and pulled a knife on the door guy asking him if he knew who I was. That was a good one."

And did he know who you were…?

ON THE HYPOTHETICAL…

HOW DOES ONE GO FROM DEATH TO DESTINY?

"I'll let you know when I get there! I don't know if there are shortcuts in the creative field. That's a mistake people very often make – bands will take a shortcut and see a boost in sales. A year later, they try again and no-one buys into it and they don't know why. That's how you fizzle out and die."

WOULD YOU TAKE £20,000,000 TO QUIT MUSIC FOREVER?

"Probably! There's a lot more to this question: is it just quitting professionally? Because who is going to check over me playing for pleasure? There are so many other creative avenues, so it wouldn't be the end of the world for me. I'd go into acting full-time and buy myself into the next Avengers movie."

Iron Man and The 'Snop, together at last…

SPIRITUAL HEADMELTER

DO ALIENS EXIST?

"We've already made contact – we know because Tom DeLonge told us ages ago (*laughs*)! It's arrogant and idiotic to assume there's no other life out there. Whether it's some highly-evolved life form that's ahead of us, technologically, is the intelligent debate to be having. All reason would say yes, but there's just no way of knowing… *yet*."

The truth, much like some of Danny's stories, is out there…

"THIS GUY ASKED US TO BEAT THE SHIT OUT OF HIS CAR…"

DANNY WORSNOP

THE VERDICT

LIVELY BY ANYONE ELSE'S STANDARDS, BUT TAME BY HIS OWN. IT APPEARS DANNY IS A CHANGED MAN. HOW DISAPPOINTING

SCORE **78%**

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9	**SYNYSTER GATES** – AVENGED SEVENFOLD	94%
10	**GREG GRAFFIN** – BAD RELIGION	94%
11	**REBA MEYERS** – CODE ORANGE	93%
23	**CHRIS ROBERTSON** – BLACK STONE CHERRY	52%
24	**CONOR MASON** – NOTHING BUT THIEVES	38%
25	**JOHNNY CHRIST** – AVENGED SEVENFOLD	31%

WORDS: AMIT SHARMA PHOTO: GETTY

Slam Dunk

— 20 FESTIVAL 18 —

Good Charlotte

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